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VIRUS

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14. ABSTRACT Identification of antiviral agents is critical to the development of therapeutic treatments directed against dengue virus (DENV), for which there is no specific therapy. The structures of the dengue virus class II fusion envelope proteins (E) suggest several features that could be explored as targets for inhibition. This report describes the activities, methods and approaches used for the design and identification of chemical entities targeting the dengue virus fusion process mediated by the E glycoprotein. The compound were designed to target the essential pH dependent conformational changes that occurs in the envelope protein (E protein), by inhibiting the conformational rearrangement that allows the virus-host membrane fusion.					
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Introduction

The four serotypes of dengue viruses (DENV1-4) are mosquito-borne transmitted human pathogens and a major burden in many regions of the world by causing diseases that include fatal dengue hemorrhagic fever and the dengue shock syndrome.¹ Recently, dengue viruses were estimated to cause 50–100 million annual human infections worldwide and 22,000 deaths, and dengue fever cases per year is increasing steadily in the United States, where dengue virus has spread to several states and the risk of an outbreak is recognized.² To date, no vaccine or therapeutic compound against dengue virus has been approved for clinical use.^{3–5} Thus, defense against outbreaks of dengue infection and exposure of US military personnel to the disease might be offered by antiviral agents as a treatment strategy.

The dengue virus envelope glycoprotein as drug target

Recent advances in the structural and molecular biology of dengue virus fusion process have identified the envelope (E) glycoprotein as a novel molecular target with therapeutic potential. Additionally, understanding the dynamics of the flavivirus E protein, suggest three regions within the protein that could be targeted by antivirals: the β OG ligand binding pocket, E-protein rafts in the mature virus and E homotrimers.^{6–8} Immature dengue virus at neutral pH is an icosahedral particle with a diameter of ~600 Å and an external coat of trimers of prM:E heterodimers, as shown by cryoelectron microscopy reconstruction.⁹ The E protein comprises three domains and is elongated in shape (Figure 1A). Virus entry followed by endosomal acidification induces structural changes, in which E rearranges from 90 homodimers in neutral pH to 60 homotrimers in acidic pH.^{10, 11} The interface between domains I and II has been identified as a site for ligand binding; *N*-octyl- β -D-glucoside (β OG) was observed in one crystallographic structure to lie in a buried hydrophobic pocket formed between domains I and II (Figures 1B and 1C).¹² The pocket appears to result from an induced-fit binding because in other structures of the E protein from dengue or tick-borne encephalitis virus a loop connecting the two domains adopts an alternative conformation that closes over and eliminates the pocket. The large-scale structural changes between immature and mature virus, including the differences in domain orientations of dengue E protein, suggest that ligands that binds to this pocket could inhibit a step in the virus lifecycle at which the dengue virus E protein undergoes a structural transition. A similar strategy of targeting a buried pocket in a viral capsid protein was exploited with human rhinovirus, leading to the development of numerous antiviral compounds.^{13–16}

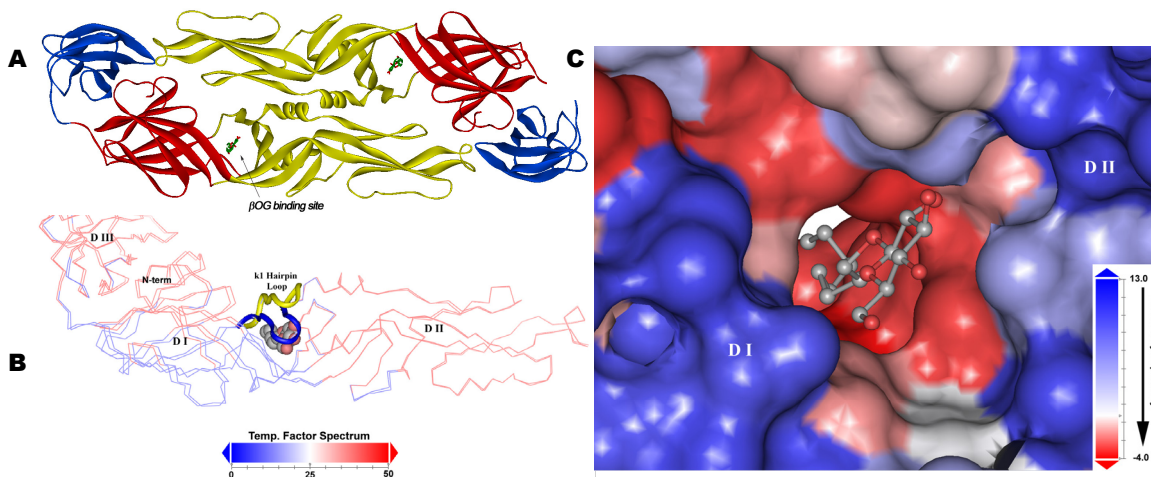


Figure 1 Structural change in DENV2 envelope protein upon β OG binding. A) Secondary structure representation of E2 protein domains I (red), II (yellow), and III (blue). B) Structural alignment of E2 protein monomer in the absence and presence of β OG (pdbIDs 1OAN and 1OKE respectively), with the kI- β hairpin loop colored as follows: prefusion state (yellow), intermediate β OG-E2 complex (blue), secondary structure colored by B-factor from blue (rigid) to red (flexible); C) Snapshot view of the β OG site and groove region with solvent accessible surface with 1.4 Å radius solvent probe, colored red for hydrophobic and blue for hydrophilic.

Body

To develop lead compounds as fusion inhibitors for Dengue virus

The original Statement of Work (SOW) is as follows:

Hypothesis.

Molecules able to mimic all the conformational, electronic and energetic restraints of β OG docked at its crystallographic position against E2 protein, might impair hinge flexibility and presumably interfere with host cell membrane ligand binding, thus disrupting the viral fusion process.

Technical objectives

Task 1. To apply a complex bioinformatics workflow to design a pharmacophore-based library

- To perform isosteric replacements and ADME/Tox filtering
- To design a fragment based library
- To perform isosteric replacements and ADME/Tox filtering
- To perform virtual screening methods using the designed compounds libraries

Task 2. To synthesize up to 20 resulting molecules

- To separate and characterize the synthesized molecules

Task 3. To perform in vitro biological cell based evaluations for DENV fusion inhibition and toxicity

- To obtain at least one bioactive compound.

Accomplishments for project

Task 1. To apply a complex bioinformatics workflow to design a pharmacophore-based library.

When the project began we had identified a preliminary pharmacophore hypothesis based on β OG crystallographic position in the DENV E2 protein. Based on this pattern we select preliminary sites for isosteric replacements (Figure 2 A to C)

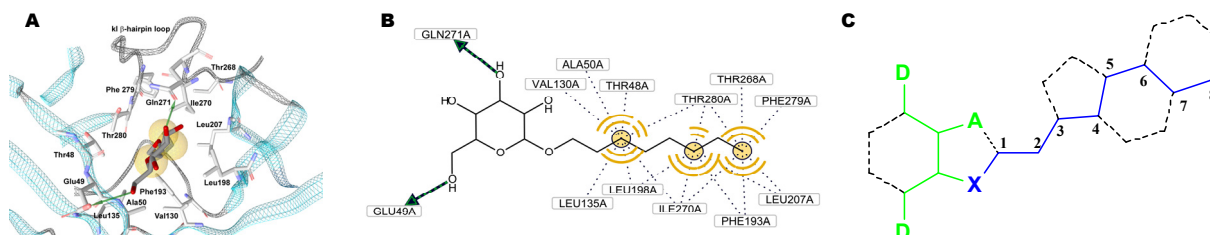


Figure 2 Pharmacophore constraints for β OG-E2 complex. A) β OG binding site in the E2 protein, B) 2D scheme of β OG molecular interactions; C) Schematic representation of basic scaffold designed for isosteric replacement and cyclation.

β OG binding site characterization

On the basis of the available crystal structures of the E2- β OG complex, preliminary target constraints were defined. The β OG binding pocket present in the 1OKE conformer has a dimension of about 10Å in length, 15Å width and 20Å in depth. The pocket is located in the interface of domains I and II (the kl β -hairpin loop, Figure 1B), where several mutations of residues in the interface alter the threshold pH for fusion, and most of them involve side chains in the β OG-binding pocket (Q52, F193, K204, T268, I270, G275I, K277, F279). The pocket is able to accommodate a single β OG molecule, and the polar and hydrophobic contributions for β OG binding at the binding pocket are distributed unsymmetrically, mainly due the presence of hydrophobic residues lining the inner face of the β OG molecule (Figure 1C). In contrast, the outer face of β OG lines with a polar rim that contains polar residues and main-chain peptide bonds that confers this wall an increased polar potential. Thus, it is very advisable to design ligands targeted to

establish favorable contacts with one or more of the most conserved or the most structurally relevant residues lining the binding pocket.

Pharmacophore modeling

The preliminary pharmacophore hypothesis based on the crystal structures of the E2- β OG complex (Figure 1B), consist of:

- 3 hydrophobic features located in the middle on the channel of the binding pocket
- A spatially constrained 18-20 Å long tunnel-shaped pocket
- 3 H-bond donor features and 1 H-bond acceptor feature representing the electrostatics interactions of the hydroxyl groups of the glycoside head in a hydrophilic area at the outer part of the binding site.
- A possibility for H-bond interaction with residues in the inner part of the pocket can be established by some of the potential ligands.

Functional group mapping and fragment placement

A selection of functional groups and commercially available building blocks was selected for fragment-based protein functional group mapping for DENV2 using the Multiple-Copy Simultaneous Search (MCSS) and docking approaches. To establish functional group maps of the protein binding site, the multiple copy simultaneous search (MCSS) methodology¹⁷ was applied in a 15 Å sphere from the center of mass of the β OG molecule. MCSS allows the determination of functional group maps of the protein binding site. MCSS determines energetically favorable position and orientation of functional groups in the binding pocket, by randomly placing the groups in the binding pocket, which are then minimized simultaneously using a force field such that the forces among individual groups are not considered. Groups are discarded if the interaction energy between them and the protein is above certain threshold. An MCSS run yields a set of pre-docked fragments that can be further investigated to select the most promising ones. The same outcome can be achieved by the use a grid-based method available in several docking software, which is indeed the initial step in some de novo design programs. This placement of chemical groups provides the starting point for the assembly of a complete ligand.

Several polar, charged, aromatic, and aliphatic functional groups have been mapped into the β OG binding pocket. Functional groups of various ring sizes were purposefully chosen to reveal the shape of the binding site; the aromatic groups consist of five-membered, six-membered, and six-membered fused rings, while the aliphatic groups include a nonplanar six-membered ring. Charged groups were chosen to determine the positions in the pocket that could most readily accommodate full or partial charges, which would increase the solubility of a candidate ligand.

The MCSS calculations are summarized in table 1 and examples of group distribution and energy plots are shown in figure 3.

Table 1 Results of Groups Mapped into the DENV E2 β OG binding site

Group	Chemical label	$\Delta H/2$ (kcal/mol)	N° of copies	Minima with interaction energy<0	Range of minima interaction energies (E_M)*	Minima with interaction energy< $\Delta H/2$
BENZ	Hydrophobic	-3,5	200	89	-18.19; -0.87	84
ACET	Acceptor	-46,5	200	105	-117.56; -0.47	16
CHEX	Aliphatic		200	148	-9.07; -0.26	
2BTN	Neutral		200	198	-10.45; -4.74	
ACAM	Acceptor, Donor	-9,6	200	198	-50.3; -3.55	151
MAMM	Donor	-37,5	200	95	-131.04; -0.24	61
OXAZ	Acceptor, Donor		200	198	-30.72; -9.88	
TRPR	Aromatic		200	198	-22.89; -9.09	
WATR	Dual	-5,0	200	189	-46.8; -0.65	173
HISR	Dual		200	198	-42.12; -10.51	

*All energies are in kilocalories per mole. $E_M = E_i - E_0$, where E_i is the interaction energy of the group with the protein including the internal energy terms of the group and E_0 is the vacuum reference energy for the group. $\Delta H/2$ corresponds to half of the solvation energy for the corresponding group.

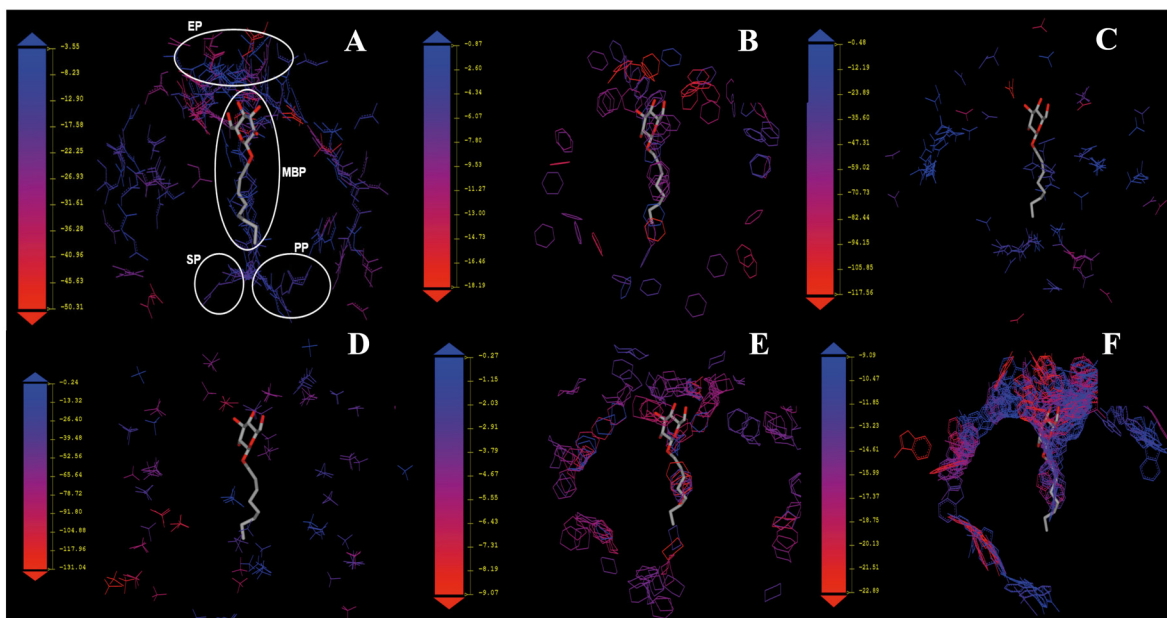


Figure 3. Functional group maps of DENVE2 β OG binding site A) ACAM minima with energy <9.6 kcal/mol. B) BENZ minima with energy <5.1 kcal/mol. C) ACET minima with energy <46.5 kcal/mol. E) MAMM minima with energy <37.5 kcal/mol. All other functional group maps are of minima with energy <0. F) CHEX minima. G) TRPR minima. (Definitions of the groups are in Table 1).

The minima for many of the groups are shown in Figure 3. The β OG molecule, which was removed for the calculations, is shown in each figure so that the minima for the different functional groups can be compared. Many of the functional groups have minima in the main binding pocket (MBP in Fig. 3A), in a newly identified polar and side pockets (PP and SP in Fig. 3A), and at the entrance to the pocket (EP in Fig. 3A). There are also a few positions at the edge of the binding site sphere where most functional groups have minima; these are small pockets on the surface of the protein that are uninteresting in terms of drug design. After mapping the different functional groups in the binding site, the best minima from each obvious cluster can be connected to form potential drug molecules and functional groups maps can be compared with our preliminary pharmacophore hypothesis.

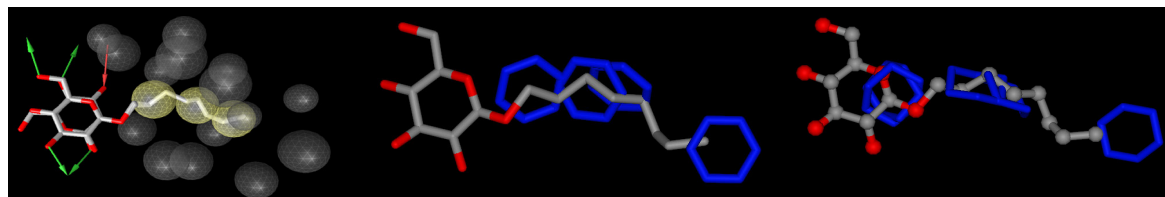


Figure 4 From left to right. Comparison of the location of preliminary pharmacophore hypothesis with MCCS selected solution for BENZ and CHEX probes within the binding site.

As can be seen from figure 4, the results of the MCSS calculations selected minima position supports our preliminary pharmacophore hypothesis and suggest various ligand design strategies. Ligands could be designed for the main binding site, the side pocket, the polar pocket, or the main binding site plus the polar pocket. For the main binding site, the ligands could be comprised primarily of aromatic or non aromatic rings. We have concentrated on designing new ligands for the main binding pocket that include aromatic functional groups because the six member aromatic and aliphatic ring minima form obvious clusters in the main binding pocket, and for the polar pocket, where most of the polar groups form clusters as well.

Fragment placing using molecular docking simulations

Similar results were obtained when a fragment libraries designed by: a) isosteric replacements of the β OG scaffold over the preliminary pharmacophore hypothesis, and b) a heterocycle fragment library, were docked in the β OG binding site using a grid-based approach. Fragments were docked into a 15Å sphere surrounding the β OG binding site. Further re-ranking and solution selection were used to map potential interactions sites and to probe the binding site volume constraints. As can be seen in figure 5, an L-shaped distribution of the solutions through the main binding pocket with a wide variety of heterocyclic moieties and the polar pocket with small acyclic groups and 5-6 member rings with H-bond donors or acceptors (see *Addendum 1 for structures and their binding energies*).

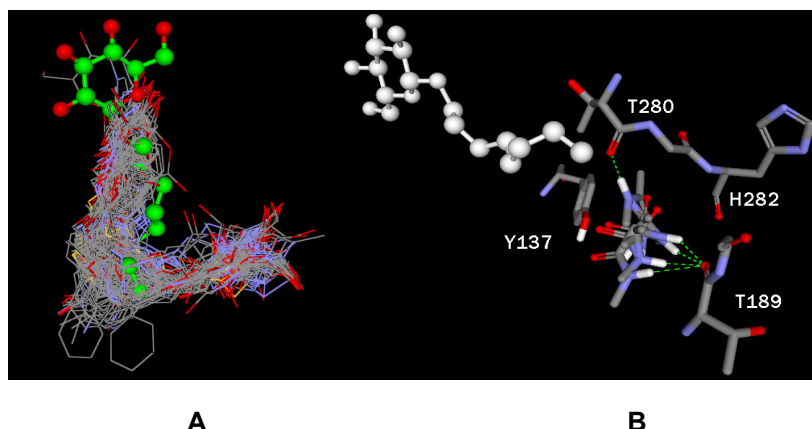


Figure 5 A) MVD docking results. B) Snapshot of the detected polar pocket residues and potential interaction with ACAM probes.

The polar pocket consists of several residues that can establish favorable ionic interactions with ligands. For the ACAM probe, the main chain CO group of Thr189, His282, Thr280 and the phenol side chain of Tyr137, could be targeted for this purpose. The results indicate that this combinatorial method has considerable potential for designing structure-based *de novo* ligands by computational methods.

Fragment linking and assembly

As stated before, the MCSS and docking approaches output is a set consisting of one minimum from each cluster. To link the clusters, the coordinates of the nearest bound β OG carbon position or the location of carbon based probes were used. Then the connectivity of the links was optimized, while the functional groups were held fixed in their minimum energy positions. In this way, a structure that has the combination of links with the lowest energy is constructed and further optimized. Some examples rising from the MCSS and MVD results are showed in figure 6. For the MCSS example (A), the β OG molecule was extended into the polar pocket using a methyl minima near the their carbon atom of the alkyl chain in β OG, a piperidine minima and finally an 1,3-oxazole moiety was added, resulting ligands position and potential interactions are also shown. For comparative purposes, in the MVD example (B) we also select a piperidine moiety but were linked at position 2 in the alkyl chain and then a dimethylisoxazole moiety was added, but other β OG head conformer was used instead.

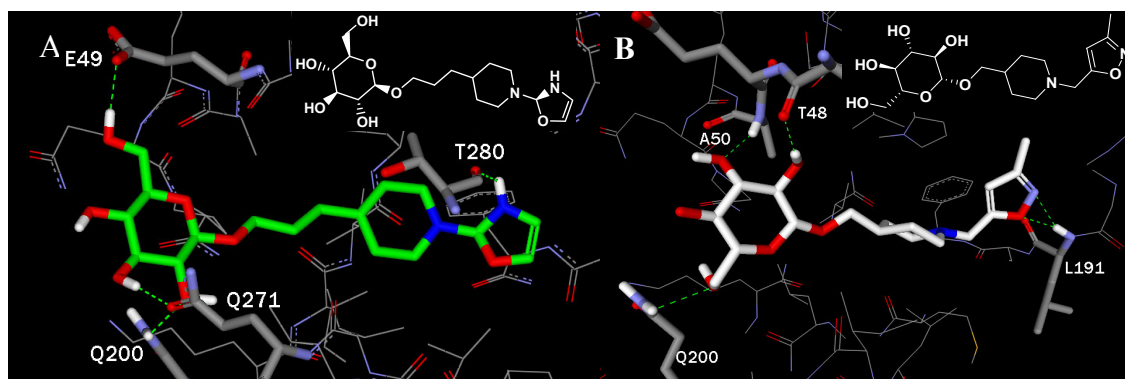


Figure 6. Examples of A) MCSS based group link and assembly, and B) MVD fragment assembly. Some residues are omitted for clarity.

These are examples of ligands designed to target the MBP and the MBP plus the PP respectively. In both examples the glycoside main electrostatic interactions are conserved while new interactions can be formed with the backbone of residues lining the MBP or the PP. The results suggest that candidate drugs designed using this approach could bind at least as well as β OG or the fragments used in ligand assembly, assuming that they are able to enter the pocket in a similar manner and have been connected with minima having favorable interaction energies with the target protein.

Secondary Pharmacophore Hypothesis Generation

The MCSS and MVD results also led us to propose a secondary pharmacophore hypothesis. As can be seen in figure 7A, a secondary pharmacophore hypothesis can be obtained from the placement of different fragments or assembled ligands into the β OG binding site.

For the latter example of the MVD fragment approach the pharmacophore hypothesis consists of:

- 2 Hydrophobic features located in the middle on the channel of the binding pocket and at the end of the polar pocket
- 13 exclusion spheres
- 1 aromatic feature in the center of the polar pocket
- 1 H-bond donor features and 2 H-bond acceptor feature representing the electrostatics interactions of the hydroxyl groups of the glycoside head in a hydrophilic area at the outer part of the binding site and the electrostatic interaction in the polar pocket.

Furthermore, a shared pharmacophore containing the features and constraints of our preliminary and second generation pharmacophore is proposed (Figure 7B). In this way, as in the fragment approaches, these different pattern-based pharmacophores were exploited for virtual screening of compounds databases in search for ligands targeting the MBP or the MBP/PP. The main advantage of a 3D database pharmacophore searching over *de novo* design is that the former one is capable of identifying molecules which can be obtained from corporate compound libraries or can be synthesized using a well-established protocol.

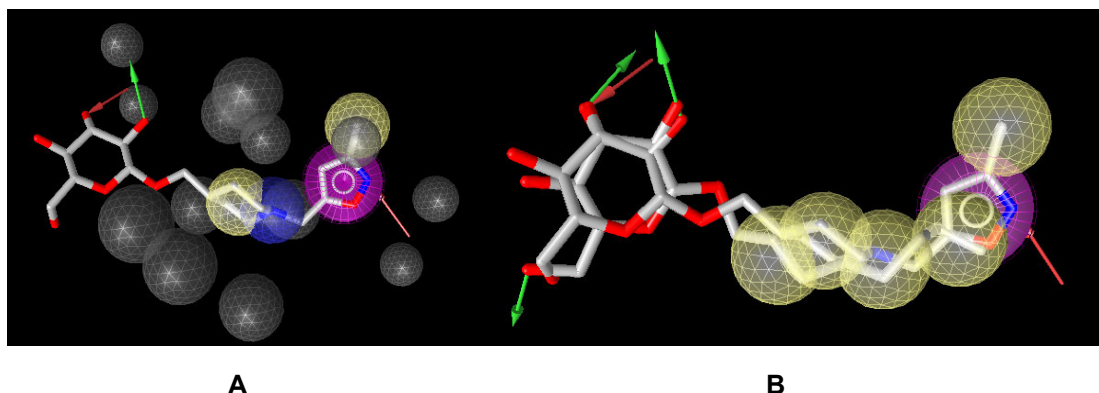


Figure 7 A) Secondary MVD based pharmacophore hypothesis and, B) Shared feature pharmacophore targeting the MBP and the PP protein functional sites.

Pharmacophore focused library generation.

Fragment assembled ligands used to create the secondary pharmacophore hypothesis suggest compounds with the general structure consisting in a polar glycosyl head, a linker region and a small H-bond acceptor/donor aromatic or aliphatic group (figure 7B). Entrance into this hydrophobic pocket through a narrow pore on the capsid surface requires a certain amount of flexibility of the compounds. However, MVD results for large ring systems are allowed because of steric restrictions of the tunnel-shaped binding site don't exclude high volume heterocyclic moieties. Studies on the characteristic structural framework of our pharmacophore hypothesis guided parameter setting and the following generation process within the ilib diverse software.¹⁸

For exhaustive representation of secondary pharmacophore characteristics, the ordered group modus is selected and a number of 5 flasks were defined for the library generation process. Figure 8 shows the important sections for the MVD example compound molecule and helps to explain the design of the focused libraries based on our secondary pharmacophore hypothesis.

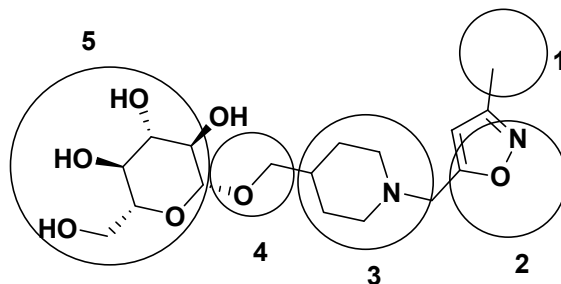


Figure 8 Division of MVD example compound into five building blocks used for flask definition in ilib diverse.

Flask 1: This substituent filling the innermost part of the binding pocket may be composed of a small rather lipophilic group. Our fragment selection includes Methane and Ethane contained in the Aliphatics fragment set, Fluoride from the Halogen, and Trifluoromethyl from the Fx groups. The methyl residue was observed frequently in the MVD resulting compounds at this position; the Methane fragment was given a weight of 100%. Trifluoromethyl, was provided with a weight of 50%, whereas the other weight values were set to 20%.

Flask 2: This moiety consists of aromatic or semi-aromatic 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic rings. Rings at this position present a well conserved pattern in the MVD solutions. We include therefore several 5-membered rings from the heterocycles fragment set into this flask: 1,2,4-Triazole, 1,3,4-Thiadiazole, 1,3-Thiazole, Furane, Isothiazole, Oxazole, Pyrazole, Pyrrole, Tetrazole, and Thiophene. Commonly observed docking solutions at this position is the Oxazole, which is therefore given a weight of 100%. Reactivity settings of 10 and 5 for the carbons in position 2 and 4 respectively were used to guide the generation process into the desired direction. A weight of 100% is adequate for another favourable heterocycle. Reactivity values for the other fragments remain at their default values, and their weights were set to 20%.

Flask 3: For this methyl-, chloride-, or non-substituted benzene moiety, a set of predominantly newly created fragments were selected: Benzene, Chlorobenzene, Dichlorobenzene, Chloromethylbenzene, Toluene, Dimethylbenzene, Fluorobenzene, Difluorobenzene, and Fluoromethylbenzene. Another bulky aliphatic and aromatic heterocycles such as Piperazine, Piperidine, Pyridine were included. Reactivity values for the benzene ring atoms at position 2 and 4, respectively, were increased. Other possible starting points for substitution were prohibited by the setting of negative reactivity values.

Flask 4: An aliphatic chain of 2 to 5 atoms of length creates a linkage to the glycoside ring situated rather at the pocket entrance region. Therefore C2 to C5 saturated, linear alcohols were selected. Reactivity of the oxygen atom as increased to 10 in order to enforce the by default prevented substitution and consequently resulting ether generation at this position. The terminal oxygen atom of the chain, the desired target for the second substitution process, was set to a reactivity value of 3, whereas other atoms of the chain were protected from reaction by negative reactivity values.

Flask 5: The last building block filling the entrance region of the pocket consists of a glycoside ring, which is known from X-ray structure information to enable favorable polar interactions with the outer part of the binding site. Maximum reactivity was defined at position 5 of this ring system. Nevertheless, since the binding site also offers room for larger-sized residues, other fragment selected from similarity searches were included.

Filter Settings

Application of the 'Lipinski rule of five' filter ensures high drug-likeness and oral bioavailability of the generated compounds. Stereochemistry setting is defined as by default (assign mixed stereo chemistry), but no chemical modification was desired because of the high specificity of the fragment definition.

This generation process results in a drug-like library of compounds that share the same shape and the same functions as the secondary pharmacophore hypothesis. They are therefore promising candidates for virtual screening, synthesis and biological testing. Out of the generation process, more than 80% of the structures did not match the filter requirements, especially the desired estimated log P, and were therefore rejected.

ADME constrains

The primary goal of the application of *in silico* ADME profiling during the hit identification stage was to identify compounds or series with the least acceptable drug-like properties to eliminate them from consideration. The risks of this approach are the potential for false positives and false negatives. False positives are easier to resolve because they will be subjected to other tests further into the process that

will eliminate them. False negatives are potentially more contentious because of the risk of missing some potential. However, owing to the large numbers of compounds involved (up to millions), the law of probability ensures that many compounds with potentially good characteristics will make it through. Another goal of ADME application here is to identify potential weaknesses and liabilities in the designed series to highlight the issues that will form the focus of improvement/ optimization efforts.

Clinical aspects of dengue virus infection and pathogenesis were also considered into our design hypothesis. Briefly, after an infected mosquito has bitten a person, the virus replicates in regional lymph nodes and is disseminated through the lymphatic system and blood to other tissues, and replication in the reticuloendothelial system and skin results in viremia. The incubation period ranges from 3 to 14 days, but it is usually 4 to 7 days.¹⁴ Infection with dengue virus of any of the four serotypes causes a spectrum of illness, ranging from no symptoms or mild fever to severe and fatal hemorrhage, depending largely on the patient's age and immunologic condition.^{19, 20} Another important issue is related to the cellular localization where the E2 protein adopts its fusogenic conformation, that is, inside the endosome.²¹ Thus, preliminary ADME filtering was considered to achieve these objectives and to establish some basic limits to the physicochemical properties of potential ligands, while maintaining potency.

Lipophilicity. Poor biopharmaceutical properties in particular, poor aqueous solubility and slow dissolution rate, can lead to poor oral absorption and hence low oral bioavailability. In general, poor solubility is related to high lipophilicity, whereas hydrophilic compounds generally show poor permeability and hence low absorption. Therefore, the measurement of solubility and lipophilicity, as well as ionization constants affecting these two properties has been integrated in our drug discovery program. Lipophilicity is the key physicochemical parameter linking membrane permeability, and hence drug absorption and distribution with the route of clearance (metabolic or renal). Measuring the lipophilicity of a compound is readily amenable to automation. For our purpose, we establish the -5 to 5 logP units as preliminary filter when designing our series, subsequent stringent criteria was applied in the selected hits.

Solubility. The first step in the drug absorption process is the disintegration of the tablet or capsule, followed by the dissolution of the active drug. Obviously, low solubility is detrimental to good and complete oral absorption, and so the early measurement of this property is of great importance. Reflecting this need, we also have included this filter, because, ideally, only soluble compounds would be synthesized, the compounds must have a logSw > -4 for electrolytes and logSw > -3 for non-electrolytes.

pKa. As ionization can also affect the solubility, pH dependent partition coefficient (log D), permeability and absorption of a compound, batch calculations procedures can be used for the rapid measurement of pKa values of sparingly soluble compounds. Considering the pH range where the E2 protein suffers its conformational changes, the preliminary limits for pKa values were established to be < 6 for weak bases and > 6 for weak acids.

Hydrogen bonding. The hydrogen-bonding capacity of a drug solute is an important determinant of permeability. In order to cross a membrane, a drug molecule needs to break hydrogen bonds with its aqueous environment. The more potential hydrogen bonds a molecule can make, the more energy this bond breaking costs, and so high hydrogen-bonding potential is an unfavorable property that is often related to low permeability and absorption. To characterize the hydrogen bond capacity of the designed libraries, the Abraham's solvation parameters were also included.²²

Bioavailability. Bioavailability depends on a superposition of two processes: absorption and liver first-pass metabolism. Absorption in turn depends on the solubility and permeability of the compound, as well as interactions with transporters and metabolizing enzymes in the gut wall. Important properties for determining permeability seem to be the size of the molecule, as well as its capacity to make hydrogen bonds, its overall lipophilicity and possibly its shape and flexibility. First pass susceptibility to metabolic transformations catalyzed by enzymes in liver and intestine has been established in the range of 50-70% for discarding potential compounds.

Absorption. For a compound crossing a membrane by purely passive diffusion, a reasonable permeability estimate can be made using single molecular properties, such as logD or hydrogen-bonding capacity. However, besides the purely physicochemical component contributing to membrane transport, many compounds are affected by biological events, including the influence of transporters and metabolism. Many drugs seem to be substrates for transporter proteins, which can either promote or

hinder permeability. In particular, the combined role of cytochrome P450 3A4 (CYP3A4) and P-glycoprotein (P-gp) in the gut as a barrier to drug absorption has been well studied. We introduce in our ADME filtering protocol the estimation of the probability of suffering extensive 1st pass metabolism and the probability of the compound to be transported by P-glycoprotein (P-gp) as substrates and/or inhibitors. Substrates are compounds that are transported (effluxed) by P-gp. Inhibitors are compounds that block P-gp transport of the standard substrates (calcein-AM and others). The classification models, used P-gp substrate and inhibitor specificity rules, based on ionization, molecular size and biological class of compounds (analogues of peptides, alkaloids, anthracyclines, etc.). We therefore have included the prediction of the effect of a compound's physicochemical properties: LogP, pKa(acid), pKa(base) on the upper limit of its intestinal passive absorption via both transcellular and paracellular routes, its human jejunum and Caco-2 permeabilities, and its absorption rate.

Blood–brain barrier penetration. Drugs that act in the CNS need to cross the blood–brain barrier (BBB) to reach their molecular target. This is important considering that flavivirus encephalitis and dengue fever are characterized by membrane permeability increase that allows virions to reach the brain.^{23, 24} By contrast, for drugs with a peripheral target, little or no BBB penetration might be required in order to avoid CNS side effects. Recommendations regarding the molecular parameters that contribute to the ability of molecules to cross the BBB have been made to aid BBB-penetration predictions; and for designed purposes, molecules with a molecular mass of <350 Da or with PSA <100 Å² are more likely to penetrate the BBB.²⁵

Transporters. Transport proteins are found in most organs involved in the uptake and elimination of endogenous compounds and xenobiotics, including drugs. As mentioned above, a better understanding of the role of transporters in oral absorption and uptake in the brain and liver is of particular interest. We have included the PepT1 (oligopeptide transporter) and ASBT (bile acid transporter) substrate prediction.

Plasma-protein binding. It is generally assumed that only free drug can cross membranes and bind to the intended molecular target, and it is therefore important to estimate the fraction of drug bound to plasma proteins. Drugs can bind to a variety of particles in the blood, including red blood cells, leukocytes and platelets, in addition to proteins such as albumin (particularly acidic drugs), α_1 -acid glycoproteins (basic drugs), lipoproteins (neutral and basic drugs), erythrocytes and α , β , γ -globulins. Considering that one of the main physiological compartments where the virus exists in humans, we have included the estimation of the compounds binding to plasma proteins in general and specifically to albumin.

Volume of distribution. The volume of distribution, together with the clearance rate, determines the half-life of a drug and therefore its dose regimen, and so the early prediction of both properties would be of great benefit. We have only included for this phase the estimation of the volume of distribution.

Very importantly, the β OG molecule has never been reported to inhibit the fusion process and whether β OG-based designed ligands could become useful drugs, even if their binding is confirmed, involves many other factors, such as drug delivery, toxicity, and resistance.

An example of comparative ADME profiling is illustrated in the following two examples and compared with β OG profile.

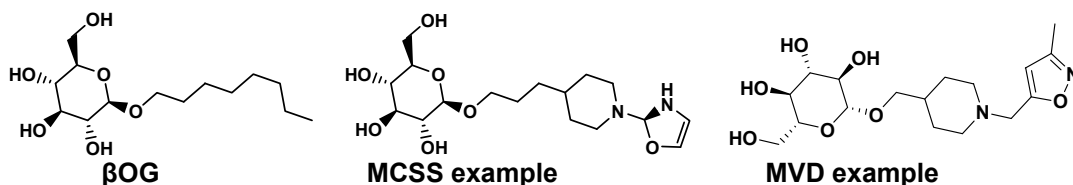


Figure 9 Chemical structures of example compounds

Addition of polar moieties to the β OG alkyl chain produces an increase in solubility and bioavailability, due the effect of ionizable groups present, mainly in the MVD example where the piperidine N atom can be ionized. All generated ligand in the library were stable at acidic conditions, and were favored to distribute in the plasma. Passive transport across GI diminishes and contribution of the paracellular route becomes

more important. None of the ligands were estimated to bind P-gp or to be actively transported. Blood-brain barrier penetration is possible but is impaired by the low logP and topological surface area. Finally, a virtual library of ~500.000 drug-like compounds was obtained.

Virtual screening

Using the current structural information on dengue E2 protein, several groups have conducted virtual screening (VS) experiments to identify potential hits directed towards the β OG binding site (Figure 10 A, B and D)^{26, 27} and alternative cavities (Figure 10 C)²⁸, or have used the E2- β OG complex as starting point but the identified compounds were evaluated in YFV inhibition assays, but the bis-amidinohydrazone derivative probed to bind the dengue E2 β OG binding site by saturation transfer NMR experiments (Figure 10 E).^{29, 30}

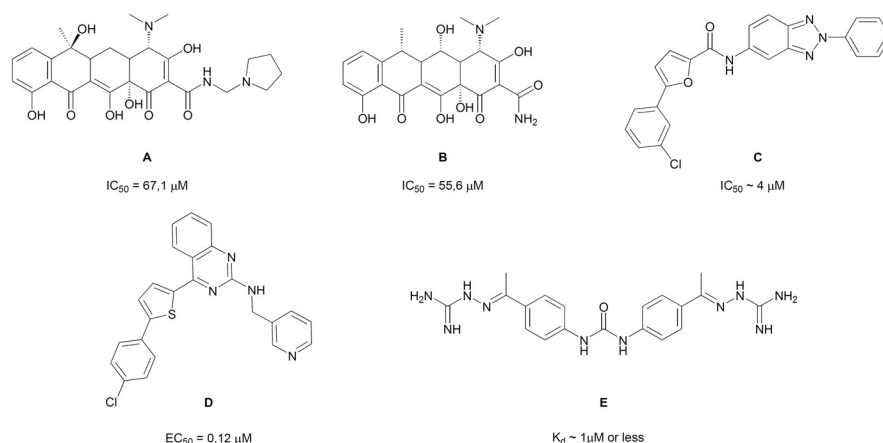


Figure 10 Reported dengue virus 2 fusion inhibitors.

Before attempt to perform our own virtual screening experiments with large libraries of compounds, we first assessed the reliability of the Autodock 4 (AD4) docking method applied to the targeted site of dengue E2 protein. The reliability of the designed protocol was demonstrated by docking β OG and comparing the results with the known structure of the crystallographic complex. The results for the best ranked docked pose (defined by ligand conformation and docked position) in the best cluster scored using the AD4 function was selected for comparison. The root-mean-square deviation (RMSD) of β OG heavy atoms between the best docked pose and the crystallographic coordinates after superposition of E protein was less than 1.5 Å (Figure 11A). The results are evidence that AD4 can accurately reproduce the known structure of the E protein- β OG complex.

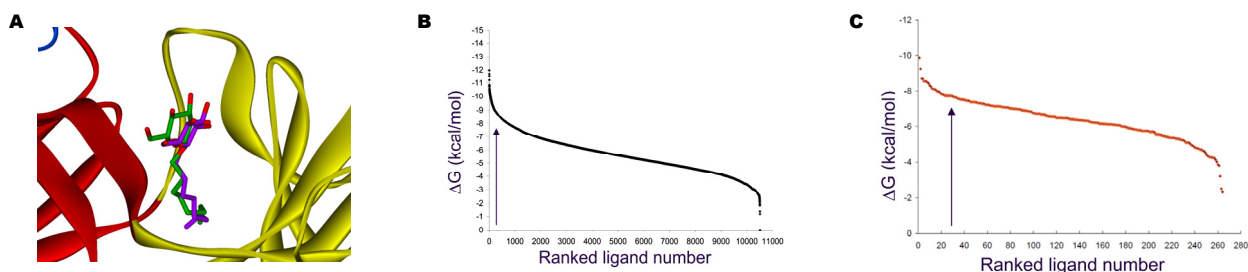
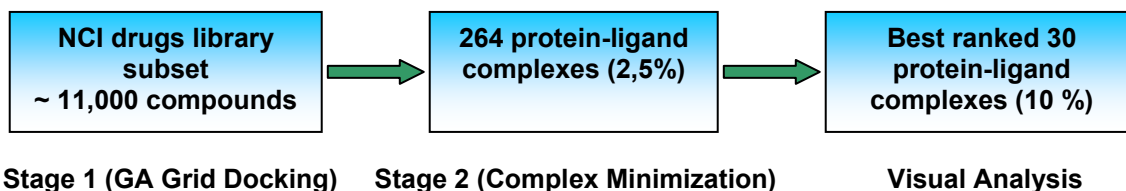


Figure 11 A) The superposition of AD4 best docked pose (cyan carbons) (stick) with the crystal structure of β OG (green carbons) bound to E2 protein (ribbon) in the pocket between domain 1 (red) and domain 2 (yellow). RMSD between the docked and experimental position of β OG was 1.22 Å. B) Plots for stage 1 (AD4 scoring function) and B) stage 2 (Ludi scoring function). In both cases, a similar to a Gaussian profile with a rapid initial drop over a small number of the most favorable compounds, followed by more slowly decreasing scores for a substantially larger number of compounds and a sharp fall off as the scores approach zero in value. The arrow indicates the cutoff points for selection of each corresponding subset.

After validation of the docking protocol, we performed a preliminary VS procedure to identify small-molecule ligands with potential to bind the β OG pocket in dengue E protein. A three-stage protocol (Scheme 1) was used to screen ligands to bind the β OG pocket of E2 protein. The compounds in the library have diverse structures. When this study was initiated, the compounds were available from NCI for biological evaluation.



Scheme 1 Virtual screening protocol for identification of potential DENV E2 binding compounds from the NCI diversity set.

The protocol consists of a primary stage that performs a grid-based docking with the following parameters: a 62x40x40 grid size was used with a 0.375 point/Å resolution, 2,500,000 energetic evaluations, 100 runs of the genetic algorithm (GA), an initial population size of 200 individuals per ligand, the rest of the parameters for the docking input file was set as default. The best docked solution (lower binding energy) as ranked by the AD4 force-field based scoring function was selected. A selection criterion of an estimated $IC_{50} < 0.5 \mu M$ was used to select the best ranked 2.5% of ligands. The ranked AD4 scores for the library following rigid docking (stage 1) are shown in Figure 14A, where lower ranked compounds are plotted by increasing value along the abscissa. Each of the selected 264 protein-ligand complexes were further submitted to a molecular mechanics energy minimization using the CHARMM force-field allowing the flexibility for both the ligands and a subset of protein residues surrounding 15Å from the β OG binding site. Final energy evaluation and ranking of the solutions was performed using the Ludi 2 empirical scoring function (see *Addendum 2*). The obtained minimized protein-ligand complexes were the visually analyzed to rationalize the binding modes and validate original design criteria. Figure 12 show the structure and binding mode of the top 3 scoring compounds after minimization.

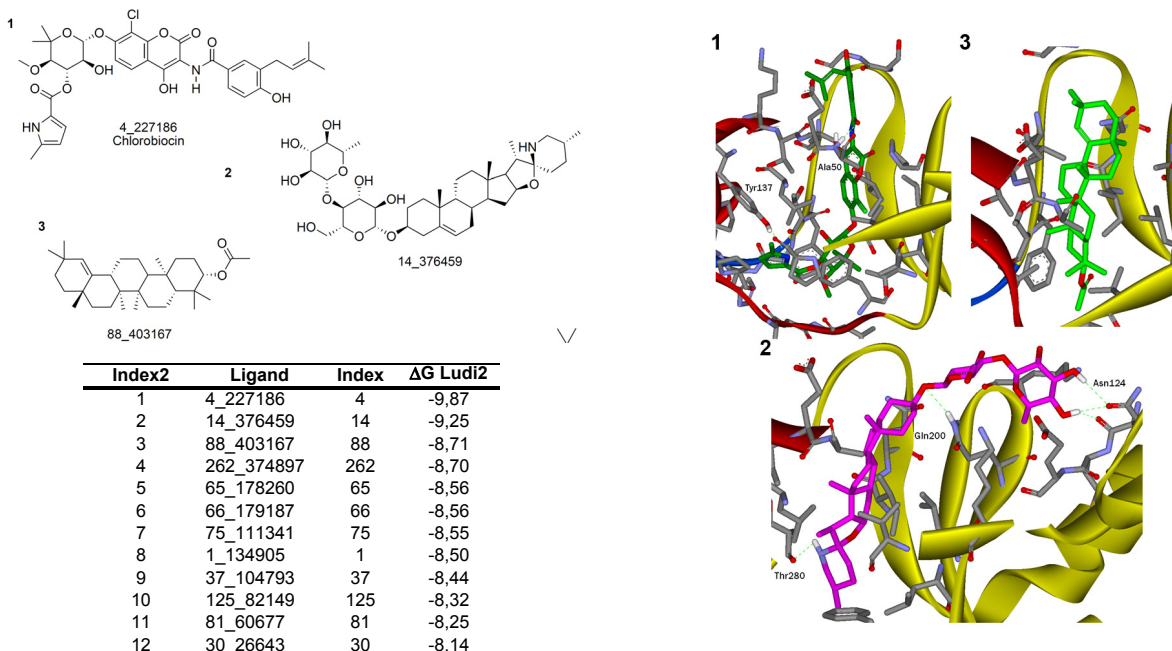


Figure 12 Selected top scoring compounds from the NCI drug library. Ligands numbers denote ranking previous to minimization and NSC numbers. Estimated binding energies are also shown.

Additional work performed, but not included as milestones were the development of comparative models for the other DENV serotypes (1, 3 and 4) glycoprotein's in complex with β OG using Modeller. Figure 13 shows the sequence alignment of DENV envelope proteins.

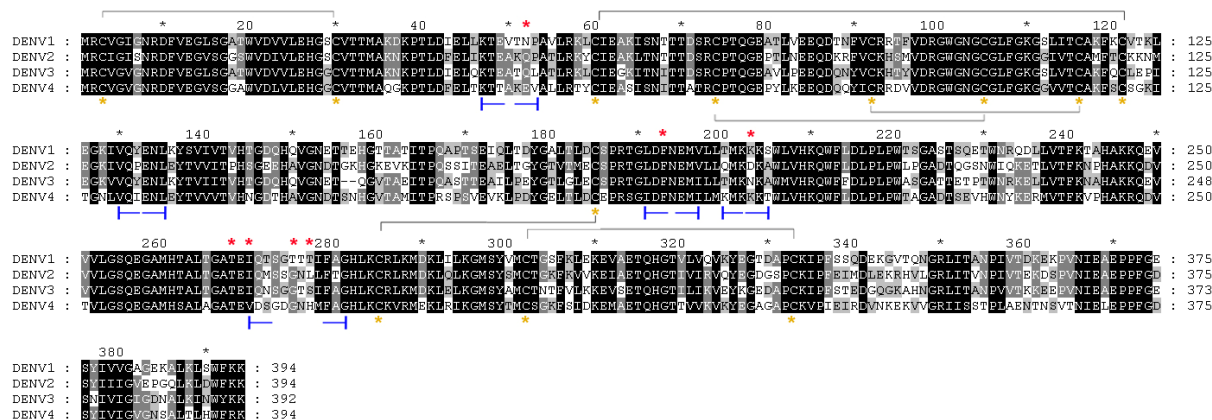


Figure 13 DENV envelope proteins sequence alignment. Brown asterisks and gray lines denotes residues involved in disulfide bridges, red asterisks denotes residues for which mutants changes the pH threshold for activation. Blue bars denote residues lining the β OG binding site in E2.

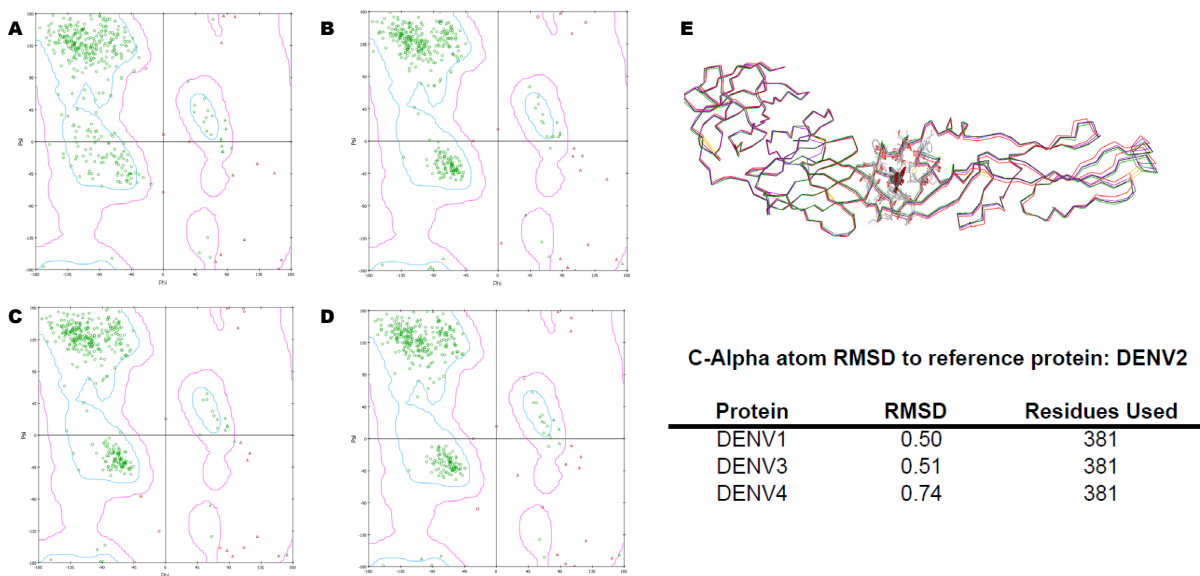


Figure 14 Comparative modeling of DENV envelope proteins. Dengue virus envelope protein were modeled with β OG, with less than 1 Å, as expected by the high degree of sequence identity among E proteins.

Dengue virus homology obtained E protein models coordinates (DENV1, 3 and 4) plus E2 were used to screen a large library composed of our in-house developed and a set of drug-like compounds compiled from several vendors (Scheme 2). The protocol involves a primary shape-based screening based on the primary pharmacophore definition, which filtered the top 10% according to shape complementarities. The filtered compounds were subjected to a genetic algorithm-based virtual screening campaign, which filtered the top 0,1% according to the estimated binding energy, using the parameter that allows the reproduction of the observed crystallographic position of β OG in DENV2 (Figure 11A). The filtered drug-proteins complexes followed a molecular mechanics energy minimization protocol as a secondary filter, to considering protein flexibility within 15 Å of the β OG binding site. A final consensus scoring scheme selects the finally reported list of compounds. For this task an automated docking web service-based

bioinformatics workflow was developed. This tool allows for automatic preparation of ligand and proteins, virtual screening and post processing and annotation of coordinates and binding energy for each ligand.



Scheme 2 Parallel virtual screening protocol for the identification of potential DENV E1-4 binding compounds from the developed library and commercial compounds databases subsets.

These additional tasks allow us identify a series of potential broad-spectrum agents by performing comparative virtual screening of our developed library in searching for broad spectrum agents, using our developed virtual screening platform. Figure 15 show the structure and binding mode of a subset of the top scoring compounds after minimization.

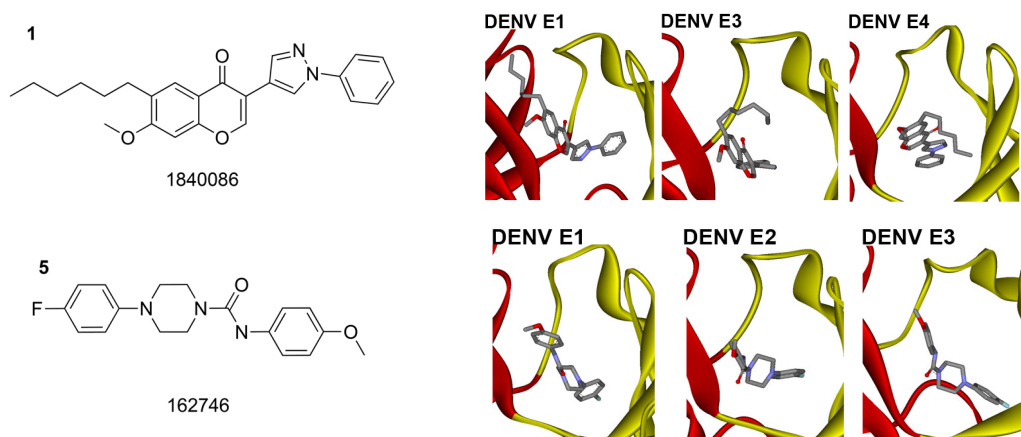


Figure 15 Selected top scoring compounds from the parallel virtual screening of compounds libraries on DENV E 1-4 proteins. Estimated binding energies were averaged to identify potential broad spectrum agents. Binding modes obtained for E proteins is depicted.

From the top 100 best scored ligands we select 62 compounds for biological assays. The ligands were assessed for commercial availability and were obtained from Chembridge, ChemDiv, Enamine, Asinex and Interbioscreen collections.

Reportable outcomes:

- A set of the top 30 compounds from the list of 264 compounds selected from the NCI dataset with potential Dengue virus type 2 fusion inhibitor, stated as a IC_{50} of 5 μ M or less, were requested to NCI to perform plaque reduction assay for DENV1 for fusion inhibitor activity.
- A list of drug-like commercially available compounds with potential broad-spectrum activity against DENV 1-4 strains.
- A set of DENV envelope protein model coordinates that can be used for virtual screening or other molecular modeling purposes (Ex. Comparative molecular dynamics).
- Functional group maps for DENV 1-4 β OG binding sites coordinates useful for de novo ligand design
- Second generation and a shared-feature pharmacophore hypothesis for the β OG binding site in DENV envelope proteins.
- 3 Abstracts in scientific meeting (1 poster presentations, 2 oral communication).
- 1 Manuscript in preparation

Task 2. To synthesize up to 20 resulting molecules

Task 2 was replaced for acquisition of commercially available molecules in the meantime. Although we have previously proposed the synthesis and characterization routes for a few molecules (20), We have considered the goals of the project and remaining time to prefer to perform a preliminary screening for cytotoxicity and biological evaluation and follow-up on chemical series with antiviral activity for lead optimization by inclusion of fragments to the binding mode of bioactive scaffolds according to second generation pharmacophore feature definitions. For this purpose a set of 62 small molecules from the library was acquired from several chemical vendors and are currently been assayed for cytotoxicity and DENV1 fusion inhibitory bioactivity using cell-based methods.

Reportable outcomes:

- A set of 62 pure and analyzed (IR, ¹H-NMR, ¹³C NMR, physical constants and elementary analysis) molecules available for biological assays (see *Addendum 3*)

Task 3. To perform in vitro biological cell based evaluations for DENV fusion inhibition and toxicity

Viruses are obligate intracellular parasites. Thus, inhibitors of virus replication must do so without toxic effects on the cells, tissues, and organs of the host. This is the concept of 'selective activity' against viruses. For dengue viruses which form plaques in a cell monolayer, reduction in plaque formation has long been regarded as the 'gold standard' assay. Antiviral activity is usually defined as the concentration of the inhibitor which reduces viral plaques by 50% (50% effective concentration; EC₅₀). Alternatively, the reduction in the yield of infectious virus can give useful information by using different multiplicities of infection (MOI); in such assays, the concentration of inhibitor to reduce replication by 99% (EC₉₉) is usually reported. For some viruses, for example, HBV, reduced production of a measurable virus product (e.g., nucleic acid or protein) is the only way to assess viral replication. For inhibition of a viral enzyme, the 50% inhibitory concentration (IC₅₀) is commonly reported. Irrespective of the antiviral assay, it is necessary to assess cellular toxicity of the test compound. This is essential to eliminate the possibility that the lack of virus replication is due to the destruction of the cells. However, the ratio of the concentration to inhibit the replication of the virus to the concentration to destroy non dividing cells in a monolayer is not an indication of selective activity. To determine selective activity, it is essential to compare like with like, replicating virus with replicating cells. To test for an effect on replicating cells, it is necessary to aim for a tenfold increase (just over three doublings) so that at the 50% cytotoxic concentration (CC₅₀), at least one doubling has occurred and the second round of replication has started. The ratio of 50% viral inhibitory concentration to 50% cytotoxic concentration is defined as the selective index (SI).

We are in the process of evaluating the cytotoxicity and bioactivity of the selected compounds on cell-based assays for DENV1 infection. Virus source corresponds to plasma of acute-phase patient infected with DENV1 strain available at the Laboratory of Molecular Virology at PUC. The toxicity for cells of each selected compound is being established using the quantitative colorimetric MTS method using commercial CellTiter 96® AQueous One Solution Cell Proliferation Assay (Promega Corp., Madison, WI) and will be evaluated in its ability to reduce DENV1 infection of Vero cells using plaque reduction protocol. Plaque titrations will be performed under agarose overlay in Vero cell monolayers and viral infection will be monitored by RT-PCR.

Reportable outcomes:

- A method for concentrating DENV1 from patient plasma.
- A method for DENV1 fusion inhibitor screening.

Key Research Accomplishments

- Development of a pharmacophore based virtual compound library, filtered under stringent ADME/Tox parameters.
- Development of a web service-based bioinformatics workflow for automated docking procedures.
- Development of comparative models of envelope proteins for Dengue virus strains 1, 3 and 4.
- Identification of functional group maps for dengue virus envelope proteins.
- Identification of 264 molecules with potential fusion inhibitory activity against Dengue Virus 2 strain, available for request from NCI.
- Identification of 62 diverse chemical entities with potential broad spectrum fusion inhibitory activity against Dengue virus strains 1-4.
- Development of a method for concentrating DENV1 from patient plasma.
- Development of a method of screening for DENV1 fusion inhibitors.
- Determination of the pharmaceutical profile of the identified compounds.
- Evaluation of the cytotoxic character of each compound in diverse cell lines

Reportable outcomes:

- A set of the top 30 compounds from the list of 264 compounds selected from the NCI dataset with potential Dengue virus type 2 fusion inhibitor, stated as a IC_{50} of 5 μ M or less, were requested to NCI to perform plaque reduction assay for DENV1 for fusion inhibitor activity.
- A list of drug-like commercially available compounds with potential broad-spectrum activity against DENV 1-4 strains.
- A set of DENV envelope protein model coordinates that can be used for virtual screening or other molecular modeling purposes (Ex. Comparative molecular dynamics).
- Functional group maps for DENV 1-4 β OG binding sites coordinates useful for de novo ligand design
- Second generation and a shared-feature pharmacophore hypothesis for the β OG binding site in DENV envelope proteins.
- 3 Abstracts in scientific meeting (*see Addendum 4*):
 - 1 poster presentation
 - 2 oral communications
- 1 Manuscript in preparation
- A set of 62 pure and analyzed (IR, 1H -NMR, ^{13}C NMR, physical constants and elementary analysis) molecules available for biological assays (*see Addendum 3*)
- A method for concentrating DENV1 from patient plasma.
- A method for DENV1 fusion inhibitor screening

Conclusion

During this first year of funding, we were able to take over the primary results of a virtual HTS campaign providing a set of potential hit compounds targeting DENV2 β OG binding site. We identify, and acquire a fully chemically characterized diverse set of compounds with potential bioactivity as DENV fusion inhibitors. We have established valid bioassay to screen DENV1 fusion inhibitors, and we are in the process of biological evaluation of the selected compounds. However, based in our current accomplishment of projects goals we are requesting a 3 month extension to accomplish all statement of work goals.

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APPENDIX

List of Personnel Receiving Pay from the Research Effort

Carlos F. Lagos, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Research Scientist Assistant
Fernando Valiente, Biochemist, Research Scientist Assistant

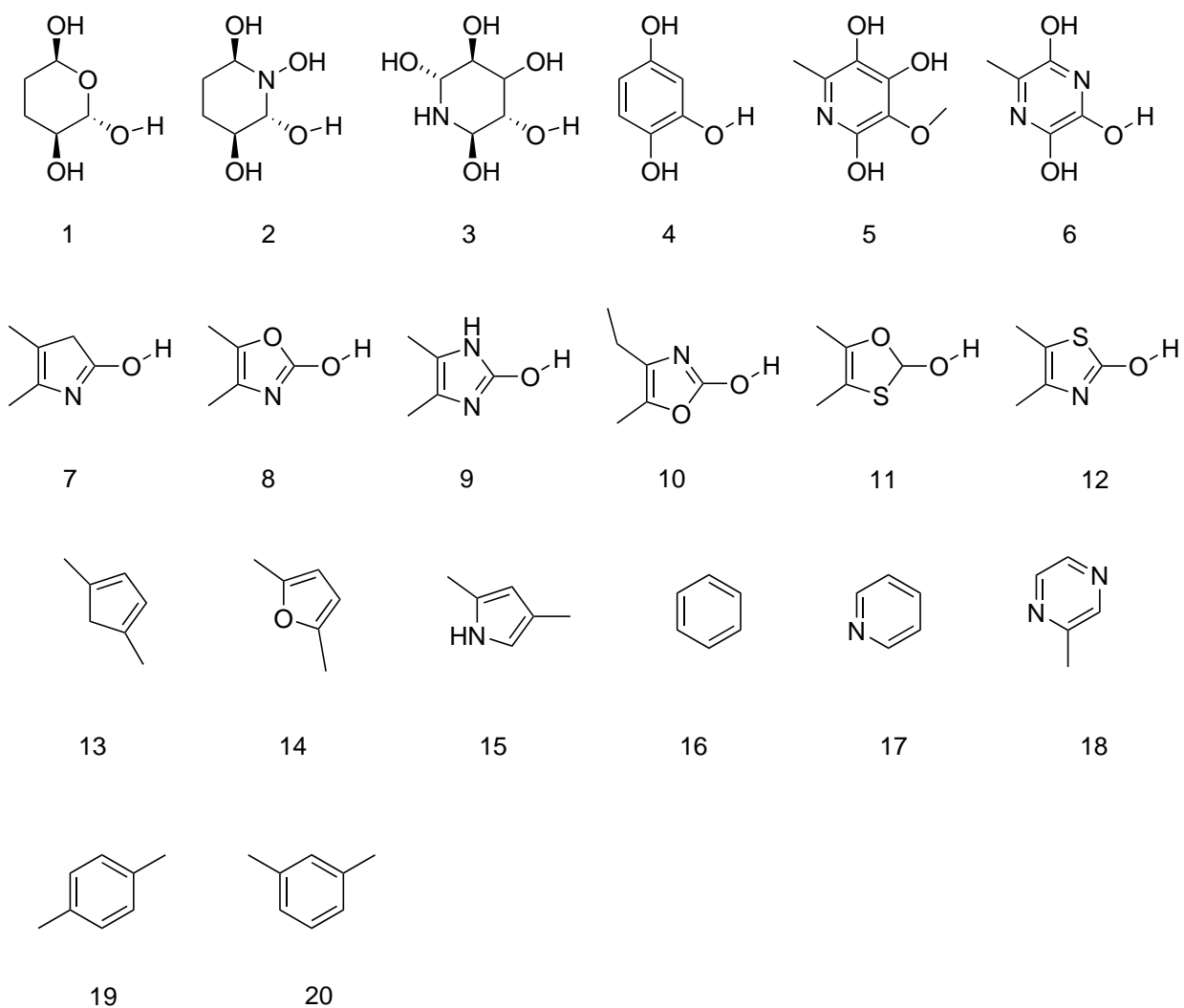


Figure 1. Structure of fragments used in functional group mapping.

Table 1 Molegro Virtual Docker Binding Energies for Functional Groups.

Name	Ligand	MolDockScore	Affinity	Rerank Score	Interaction	Protein	Internal
BOG	BOG (IOKE)	-279.601	-113.251	-298.703	-708.415	-708.415	428.814
Name	Ligand	MolDockScore	Affinity	Rerank Score	Interaction	Protein	Internal
ACAM	[00] ACAM	-492.128	-202.089	-378.618	-515.288	-515.288	231.595
ACAM	[04] ACAM	-40.92	-189.337	-361.953	-432.352	-432.352	231.516
ACAM	[01] ACAM	-397.713	-203.124	-353.067	-420.865	-420.865	231.524
ACAM	[06] ACAM	-388.467	-194.095	195.592	-411.619	-411.619	231.518
ACAM	[03] ACAM	-387.353	-206.815	-347.409	-410.511	-410.511	231.584
ACAM	[09] ACAM	-375.472	-208.367	-321.745	-398.632	-398.632	231.597
ACAM	[07] ACAM	-371.266	-19.423	-330.067	-394.418	-394.418	231.523
ACAM	[02] ACAM	-366.859	-192.852	-31.233	-390.015	-390.015	231.565
ACAM	[05] ACAM	-364.108	-194.434	-319.061	-387.261	-387.261	231.534
ACAM	[08] ACAM	-331.534	-184.904	-303.251	-354.692	-354.692	231.577
ARGR	[00] ARGR	-585.628	-191.193	-389.076	-587.591	-587.591	0.19628
ARGR	[03] ARGR	-553.725	-19.294	-47.136	-576.896	-576.896	231.709
ARGR	[05] ARGR	-489.538	-19.35	-407.395	-555.467	-555.467	659.288
ARGR	[01] ARGR	-476.984	-168.206	-391.215	-549.208	-549.208	722.248
ARGR	[02] ARGR	-478.579	-168.893	-381.501	-539.123	-539.123	605.433
ARGR	[08] ARGR	-46.95	-180.665	-364.218	-535.661	-535.661	661.616
ARGR	[04] ARGR	-453.194	-153.863	-35.21	-514.403	-514.403	612.092
ARGR	[07] ARGR	-489.365	-167.297	-403.985	-509.152	-509.152	19.787
ARGR	[06] ARGR	-409.176	-150.722	-326.045	-475.635	-475.635	664.588
ARGR	[09] ARGR	-378.174	-149.184	-287.548	-432.948	-432.948	547.736
BZOXZ	[00] BZOXZ	-534.717	-255.284	-413.528	-586.277	-586.277	5.156
BZOXZ	[03] BZOXZ	-532.276	-243.711	-448.901	-583.828	-583.828	515.523
BZOXZ	[05] BZOXZ	-518.181	-243.681	-431.382	-569.739	-569.739	515.577
BZOXZ	[07] BZOXZ	-513.986	-243.677	-424.006	-565.531	-565.531	515.447
BZOXZ	[02] BZOXZ	-504.581	-243.678	-437.128	-556.129	-556.129	515.483
BZOXZ	[09] BZOXZ	-503.379	-243.678	-365.885	-554.927	-554.927	515.483
BZOXZ	[06] BZOXZ	-47.938	-243.681	-406.799	-530.936	-530.936	515.561
BZOXZ	[04] BZOXZ	-567.111	-260.382	-475.617	-61.867	-61.867	515.594
BZOXZ	[08] BZOXZ	-491.487	-243.811	-41.857	-54.304	-54.304	515.535
BZOXZ	[01] BZOXZ	-536.048	-245.833	-459.542	-58.76	-58.76	515.524
BZTF	[00] BZTF	-539.765	-243.647	-45.547	-589.486	-589.486	497.213
BZTF	[01] BZTF	-536.363	-243.719	-449.434	-586.077	-586.077	497.136
BZTF	[03] BZTF	-528.224	-243.451	-438.296	-577.946	-577.946	49.722
BZTF	[02] BZTF	-527.662	-243.447	-448.131	-577.374	-577.374	497.121
BZTF	[04] BZTF	-509.766	-243.449	-419.243	-559.485	-559.485	497.192
BZTF	[05] BZTF	-502.694	-243.448	-440.797	-552.412	-552.412	49.718
BZTF	[08] BZTF	-499.127	-243.447	-413.395	-548.841	-548.841	497.139
BZTF	[09] BZTF	-491.779	-243.451	-417.023	-541.502	-541.502	497.233
BZTF	[07] BZTF	-490.189	-243.448	-420.296	-539.907	-539.907	497.182
BZTF	[06] BZTF	-487.854	-254.755	-430.341	-537.573	-537.573	497.195
CPENT	[00] CPENT	-491.633	-195.693	-342.799	-491.633	-491.633	0
CPENT	[02] CPENT	-488.999	-195.693	-354.309	-488.999	-488.999	0
CPENT	[03] CPENT	-464.938	-195.693	-378.768	-464.938	-464.938	0
CPENT	[04] CPENT	-452.679	-195.693	-362.647	-452.679	-452.679	0

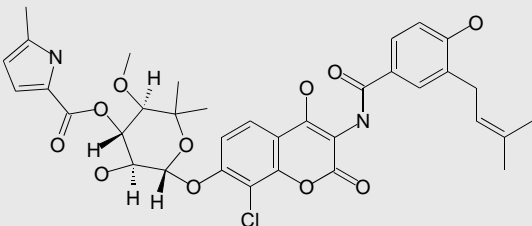
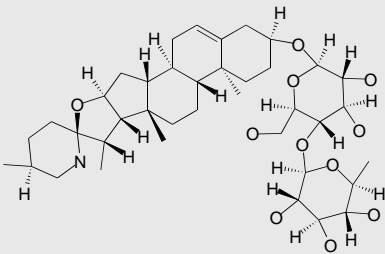
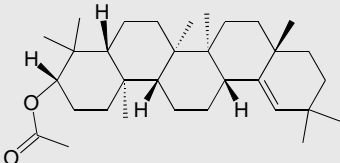
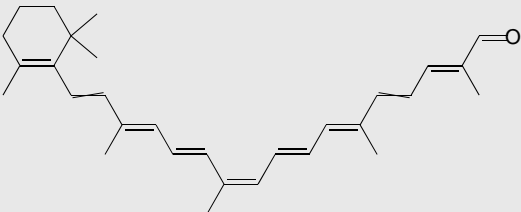
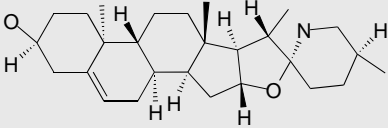
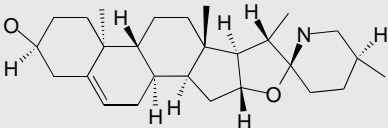
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DMBENZ	[00] DMBENZ	-482.391	-200.943	-420.308	-544.752	-544.752	62.361
DMBENZ	[01] DMBENZ	-474.285	-200.943	-39.549	-536.645	-536.645	623.601
DMBENZ	[02] DMBENZ	-451.603	-200.942	-393.482	-513.961	-513.961	623.579
DMBENZ	[03] DMBENZ	-442.224	-200.944	-383.988	-504.589	-504.589	623.645
DMBENZ	[04] DMBENZ	-433.456	-200.943	-373.281	-495.817	-495.817	623.609
DMBENZ	[05] DMBENZ	-426.572	-200.944	-35.126	-488.937	-488.937	623.649
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FUR	[03] FUR	-472.606	-220.821	-259.486	-472.606	-472.606	0
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FUR	[06] FUR	-451.028	-232.125	-35.374	-451.028	-451.028	0
FUR	[07] FUR	-440.254	-220.821	-369.087	-440.254	-440.254	0
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FUR	[08] FUR	-43.768	-220.821	-352.101	-43.768	-43.768	0
FUR	[05] FUR	-46	-220.821	-340.607	-46	-46	0
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GLNR	[02] GLNR	-49.911	-222.574	-430.552	-510.565	-510.565	114.548
GLNR	[00] GLNR	-486.336	-214.383	-214.383	-500.992	-500.992	146.561
GLNR	[04] GLNR	-473.746	-201.209	-192.368	-486.146	-486.146	1,24
GLNR	[03] GLNR	-473.046	-218.665	-410.354	-483.649	-483.649	106.026
GLNR	[05] GLNR	-460.965	-217.563	-39.985	-472.392	-472.392	114.271
GLNR	[07] GLNR	-449.842	-22.277	-382.051	-460.349	-460.349	105.068
GLNR	[08] GLNR	-436.113	-220.034	-379.224	-455.054	-455.054	189.414
GLNR	[09] GLNR	-429.808	-217.948	-368.184	-443.043	-443.043	132.349
GLNR	[06] GLNR	-455.681	-220.465	-389.025	-47.127	-47.127	155.896
HISR	[00] HISR	-483.842	-213.489	-415.563	-475.875	-475.875	-0,796707

HISR	[01] HISR	-455.675	-214.875	-389.241	-447.708	-447.708	-0,79669
HISR	[08] HISR	-455.431	-215.749	-379.061	-447.464	-447.464	-0,796751
HISR	[04] HISR	-442.641	-206.212	-381.508	-434.672	-434.672	-0,79686
HISR	[05] HISR	-438.767	-199.046	-371.295	-430.799	-430.799	-0,796849
HISR	[03] HISR	-413.083	-200.071	-345.269	-405.115	-405.115	-0,79676
HISR	[09] HISR	-411.796	-204.142	-349.773	-403.828	-403.828	-0,796806
HISR	[02] HISR	-410.256	-199.046	-341.488	-402.288	-402.288	-0,796761
HISR	[07] HISR	-401.399	-212.246	-328.059	-393.431	-393.431	-0,79682
HISR	[06] HISR	-397.641	-201.711	-330.496	-389.673	-389.673	-0,79677
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INDOL	[07] INDOL	-536.469	-223.006	-451.661	-588.019	-588.019	515.503
INDOL	[05] INDOL	-536.204	-224.051	-449.433	-587.762	-587.762	515.582
INDOL	[02] INDOL	-533.993	-231.961	-455.828	-585.555	-585.555	515.617
INDOL	[01] INDOL	-530.658	-228.299	-457.232	-582.221	-582.221	515.636
INDOL	[09] INDOL	-499.659	-22.268	-426.634	-551.215	-551.215	515.557
INDOL	[06] INDOL	-497.044	-222.682	-406.237	-548.609	-548.609	515.648
INDOL	[00] INDOL	-488.239	-224.346	-400.401	-539.803	-539.803	515.642
INDOL	[03] INDOL	-505.038	-237.807	-380.519	-55.659	-55.659	51.552
INDOL	[08] INDOL	-484.305	-226.974	-34.77	-53.586	-53.586	515.549
MDHP	[01] MDHP	-434.882	-20.887	-390.185	-503.616	-503.616	687.341
MDHP	[02] MDHP	-42.643	-210.617	-30.902	-495.163	-495.163	687.335
MDHP	[00] MDHP	-419.442	-200.096	-381.317	-488.166	-488.166	687.239
MDHP	[04] MDHP	-411.303	-199.015	-360.083	-480.031	-480.031	687.285
MDHP	[03] MDHP	-392.636	-211.722	-330.047	-461.365	-461.365	687.288
MDHP	[09] MDHP	-390.983	-204.097	-349.078	-459.715	-459.715	687.323
MDHP	[08] MDHP	-386.883	-202.792	-355.227	-455.612	-455.612	687.289
MDHP	[05] MDHP	-383.872	-199.016	-345.173	-452.607	-452.607	68.735
MDHP	[06] MDHP	-368.638	-200.384	-278.605	-437.364	-437.364	687.263
MDHP	[07] MDHP	-383.334	-199.014	-340.829	-45.206	-45.206	687.258
MORPH	[00] MORPH	-378.346	-233.585	-34.665	-453.928	-453.928	755.814
MORPH	[02] MORPH	-362.132	-218.906	-336.939	-437.713	-437.713	755.812
MORPH	[04] MORPH	-355.537	-220.046	-339.505	-431.122	-431.122	755.842
MORPH	[05] MORPH	-351.118	-22.072	-338.293	-426.698	-426.698	755.801
MORPH	[01] MORPH	-343.544	-217.652	-327.513	-419.129	-419.129	755.848
MORPH	[03] MORPH	-339.305	-220.722	-317.942	-414.889	-414.889	755.835
MORPH	[07] MORPH	-337.799	-218.587	-318.249	-413.378	-413.378	755.798
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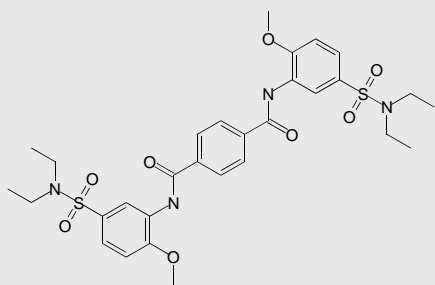
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OXZ	[05] OXZ	-540.862	-243.801	-44.671	-540.862	-540.862	0
OXZ	[00] OXZ	-493.236	-236.558	-382.711	-493.236	-493.236	0
OXZ	[03] OXZ	-465.409	-229.802	-380.811	-465.409	-465.409	0
OXZ	[04] OXZ	-440.075	-236.558	-301.623	-440.075	-440.075	0
OXZ	[08] OXZ	-437.919	-228.154	-335.893	-437.919	-437.919	0
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OXZ	[01] OXZ	-424.853	-225.525	-340.582	-424.853	-424.853	0
OXZ	[07] OXZ	-405.524	-224.956	-339.642	-405.524	-405.524	0
OXZ	[02] OXZ	-48.597	-236.405	-403.569	-48.597	-48.597	0
PHEN	[04] PHEN	-389.161	-200.312	-34.983	-465.097	-465.097	759.358
PHEN	[02] PHEN	-385.278	-200.313	-349.681	-461.217	-461.217	759.386
PHEN	[01] PHEN	-368.968	-201.444	-33.945	-444.902	-444.902	759.334
PHEN	[07] PHEN	-36.575	-204.783	-331.219	-441.686	-441.686	759.359
PHEN	[00] PHEN	-358.629	-200.375	-33.428	-434.556	-434.556	759.275
PHEN	[09] PHEN	-352.208	-200.308	-302.193	-428.134	-428.134	759.254
PHEN	[03] PHEN	-349.264	-211.912	-266.857	-425.196	-425.196	759.316
PHEN	[05] PHEN	-340.691	-204.643	-318.284	-416.632	-416.632	759.418
PHEN	[08] PHEN	-332.567	-200.316	-28.823	-408.511	-408.511	759.447
PHEN	[06] PHEN	-30.907	-200.312	-290.339	-385.004	-385.004	759.337
PIR	[00] PIR	-399.983	-225.294	-327.434	-499.952	-499.952	999.693
PIR	[05] PIR	-36.193	-23.258	-201.065	-461.896	-461.896	999.654
PIR	[06] PIR	-338.063	-230.698	-308.348	-438.024	-438.024	999.617
PIR	[02] PIR	-335.645	-218.716	703.683	-435.608	-435.608	99.963
PIR	[04] PIR	-299.618	-218.944	-289.274	-399.588	-399.588	9.997
PIR	[01] PIR	-294.588	-218.717	-289.905	-394.553	-394.553	999.651
PIR	[08] PIR	-283.494	-218.715	-266.903	-383.457	-383.457	99.963
PIR	[09] PIR	-280.402	-218.825	184.006	-380.361	-380.361	999.585
PIR	[03] PIR	-26.907	-218.714	-267.177	-369.028	-369.028	999.581
PIR	[07] PIR	-260.078	-21.907	-25.958	-360.043	-360.043	99.965
PPIP	[00] PPIP	-401.755	-176.826	-195.664	-464.087	-464.087	623.328
PPIP	[02] PPIP	-372.263	-18.652	-350.024	-434.591	-434.591	623.282
PPIP	[08] PPIP	-360.528	-176.826	-335.539	-422.864	-422.864	623.362
PPIP	[07] PPIP	-349.211	-179.673	-326.073	-411.544	-411.544	623.337
PPIP	[06] PPIP	-346.269	-179.099	-325.934	-408.595	-408.595	62.327
PPIP	[09] PPIP	-334.973	-17.779	-305.027	-397.307	-397.307	623.335
PPIP	[05] PPIP	-327.223	-188.021	-297.562	-389.558	-389.558	623.346
PPIP	[03] PPIP	-394.831	-188.427	-366.336	-45.716	-45.716	623.295
PPIP	[04] PPIP	-344.612	-184.354	-32.299	-40.694	-40.694	623.277
PPIP	[01] PPIP	-385.675	-186.603	-352.126	-44,8	-44,8	623.251
PYR	[00] PYR	-351.336	-225.008	416.629	-445.507	-445.507	941.708
PYR	[05] PYR	-322.257	-214.469	-306.995	-416.427	-416.427	941.704
PYR	[03] PYR	-319.884	-21.447	-305.135	-414.055	-414.055	941.708
PYR	[01] PYR	-311.863	-214.471	-296.275	-406.036	-406.036	941.733

PYR	[02] PYR	-310.056	-214.469	-297.433	-404.223	-404.223	941.677
PYR	[04] PYR	-305.723	-214.468	-294.333	-399.892	-399.892	941.693
PYR	[07] PYR	-293.353	-215.704	-278.142	-387.525	-387.525	94.173
PYR	[06] PYR	-281.269	-214.471	-275.801	-375.443	-375.443	941.743
PYR	[09] PYR	-267.936	-21.447	-264.268	-362.109	-362.109	94.173
PYR	[08] PYR	-312.109	-214.469	-284.116	-40.628	-40.628	941.703

Table 2. Top 150 Virtual screening results for NCI drug database against Dengue Virus E2 protein.

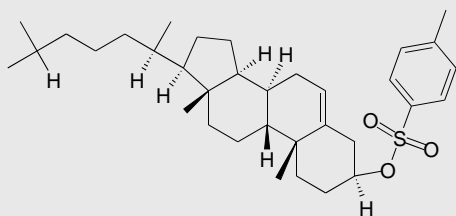
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6		66_179187_10KE.pdb	628

7



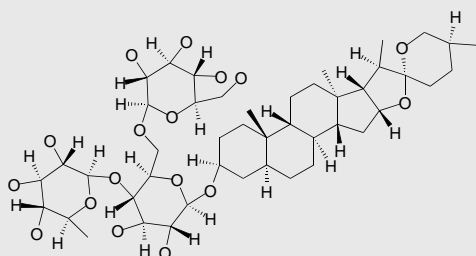
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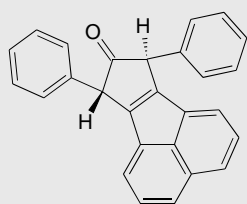
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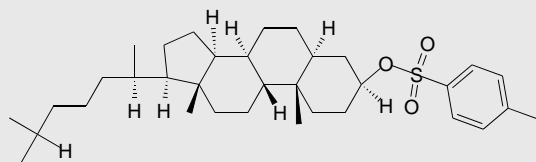
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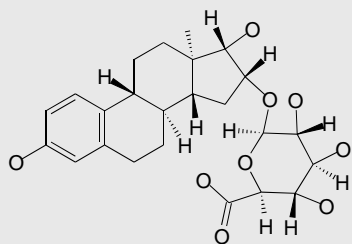
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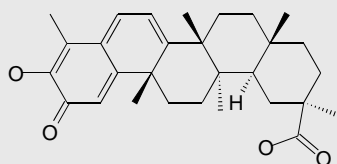
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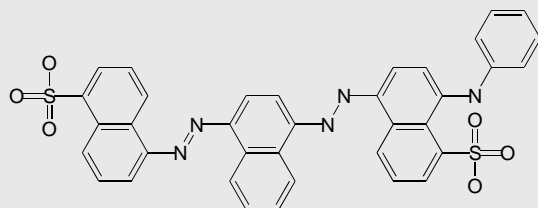
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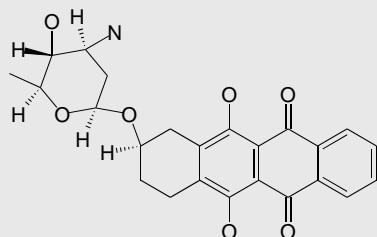
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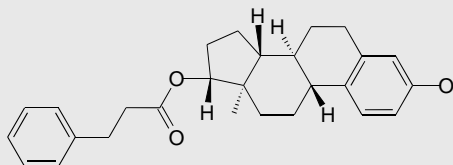
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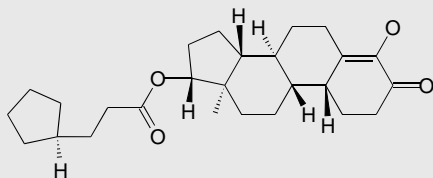
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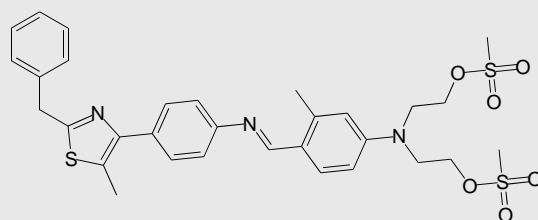
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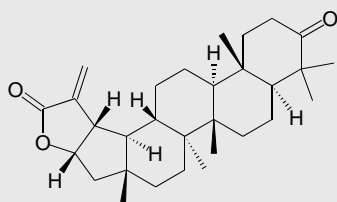
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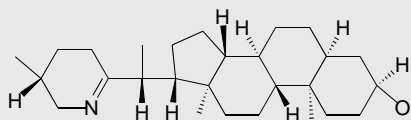
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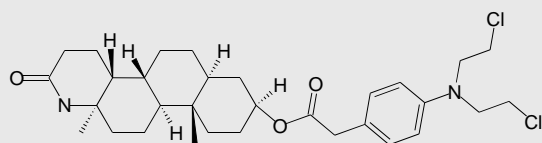
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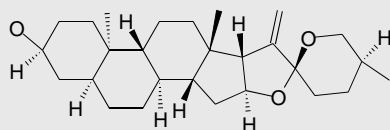
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21



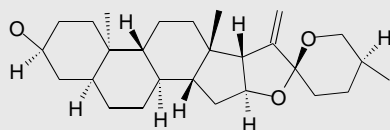
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22



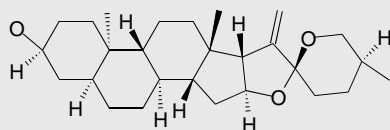
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23

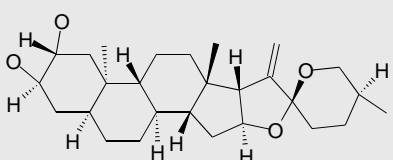
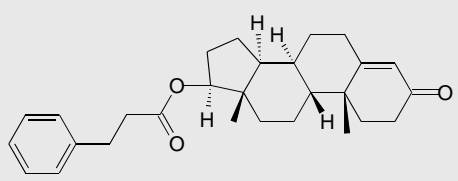
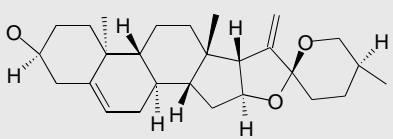
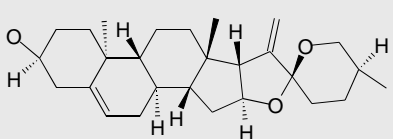
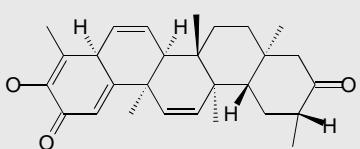
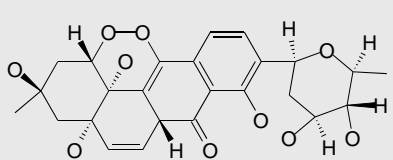


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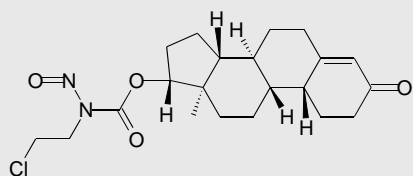
24



26_93754_10KE.pdb 549

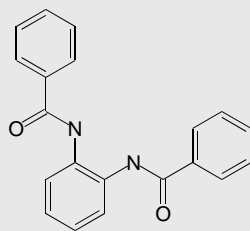
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26		30_26643_10KE.pdb	597
27		31_226132_10KE.pdb	542
28		32_33396_10KE.pdb	542
29		33_608781_10KE.pdb	524
30		38_184398_10KE.pdb	422

31



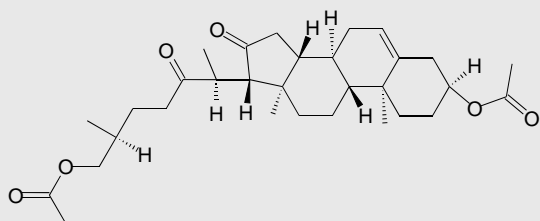
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32



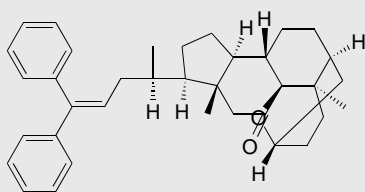
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33



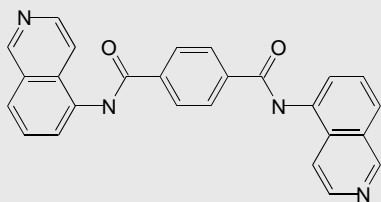
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34



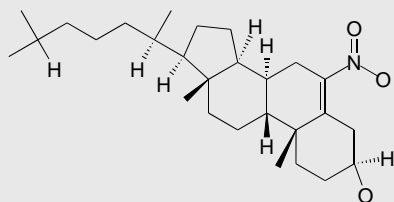
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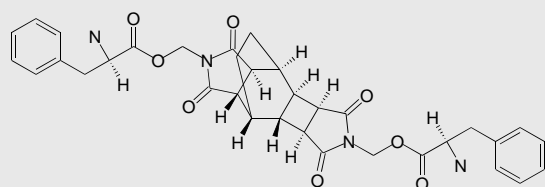
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36



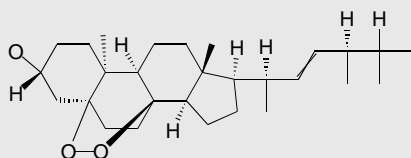
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37



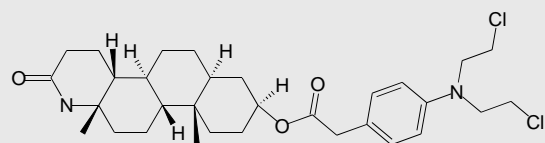
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38



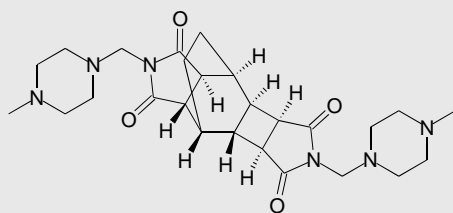
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39



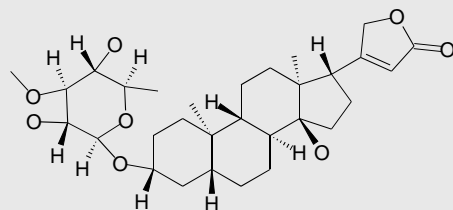
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40



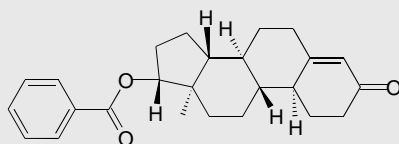
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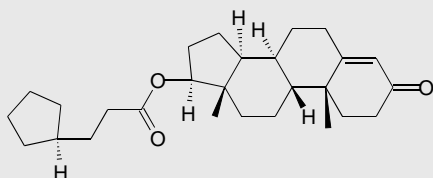
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42



60_19858_10KE.pdb 541

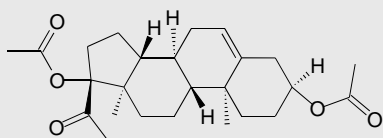
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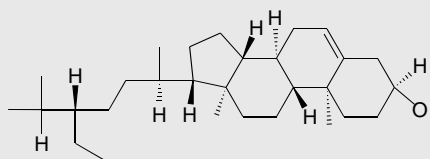
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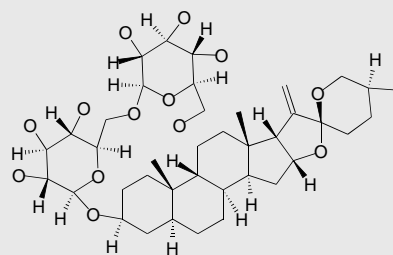
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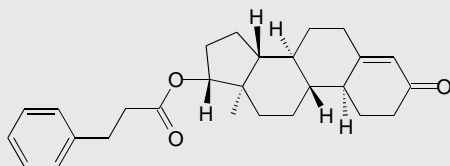
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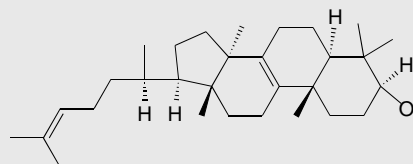
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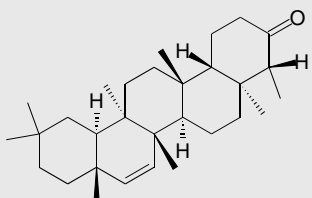
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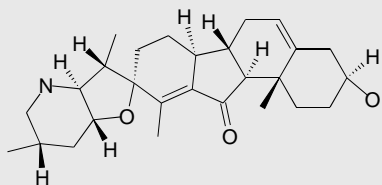
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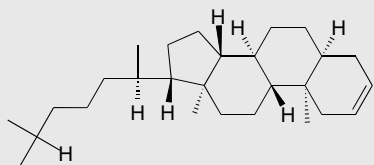
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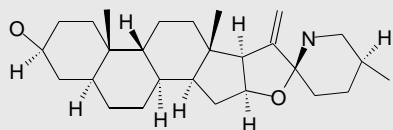
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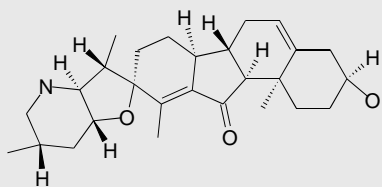
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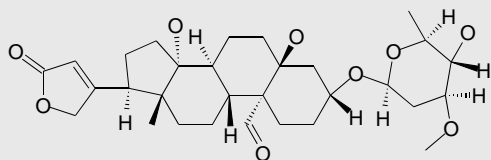
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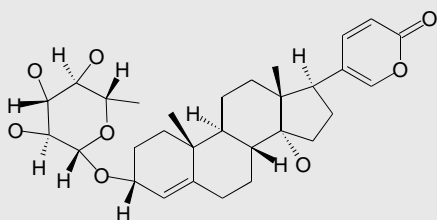
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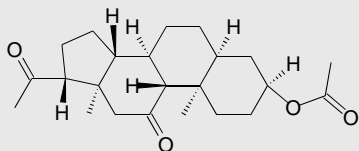
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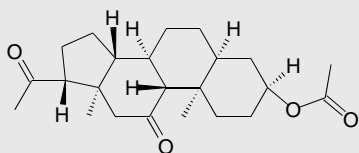
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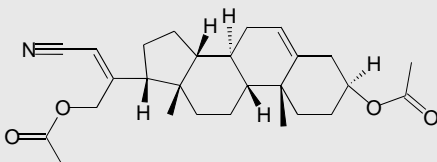
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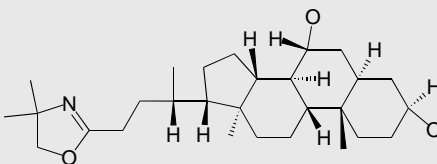
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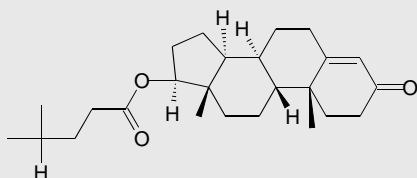
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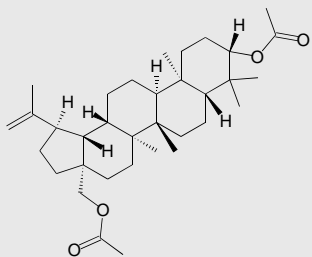
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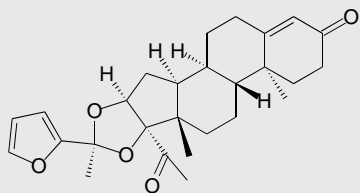
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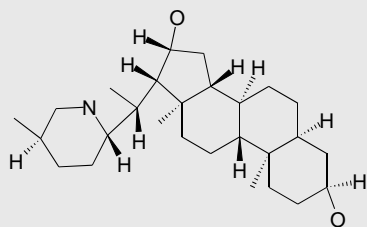
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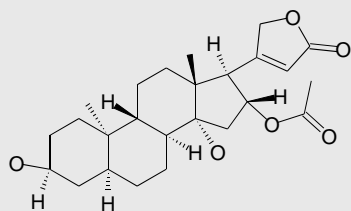
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63



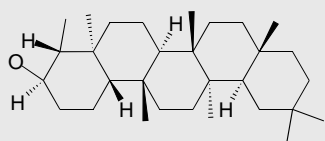
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64



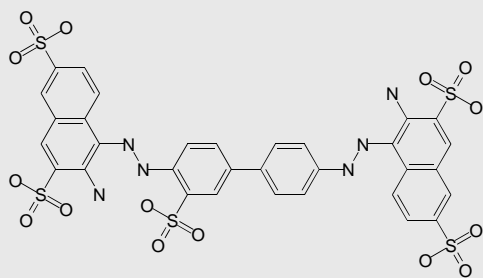
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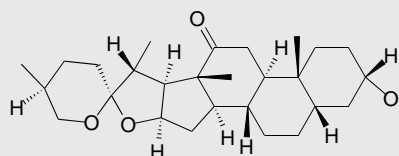
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66



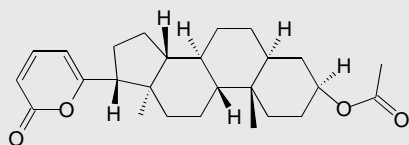
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67



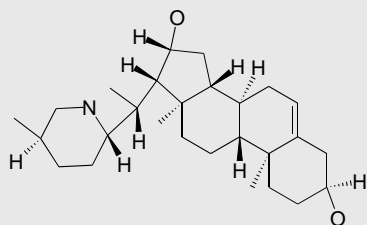
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68



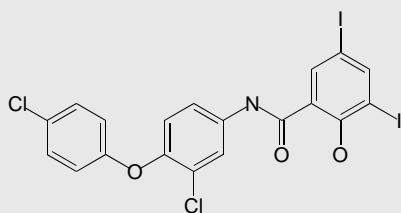
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69



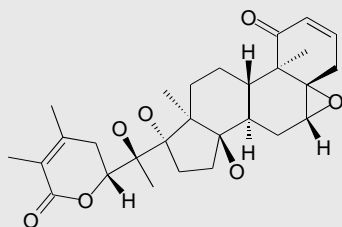
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70



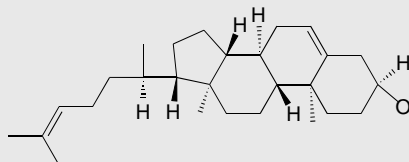
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71



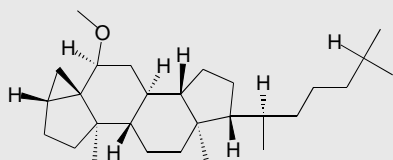
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72



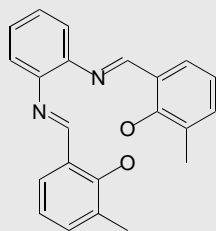
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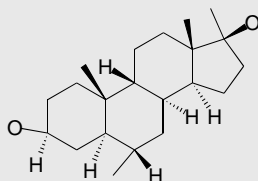
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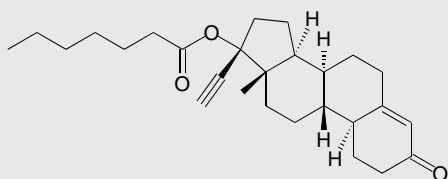
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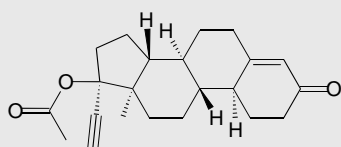
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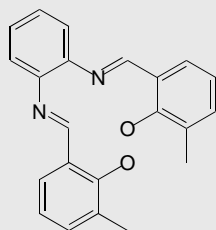
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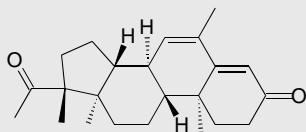
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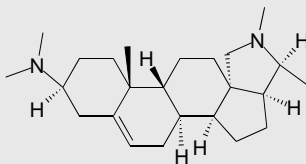
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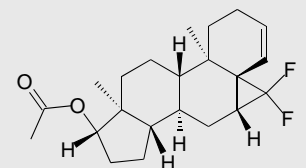
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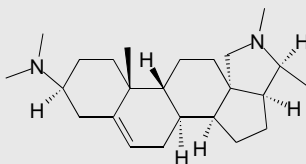
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81



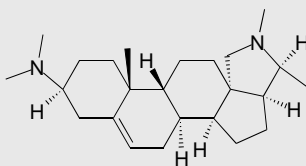
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82



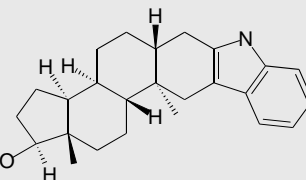
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83



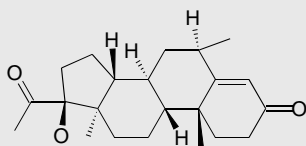
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84



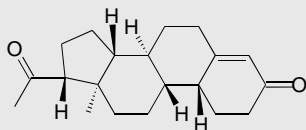
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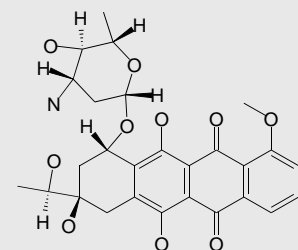
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86



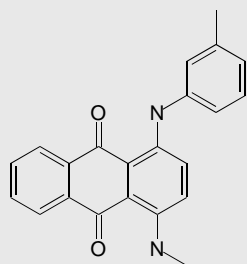
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87



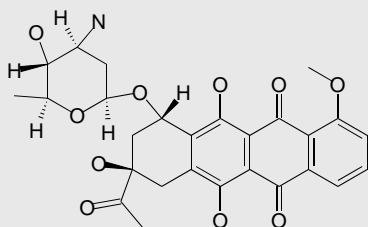
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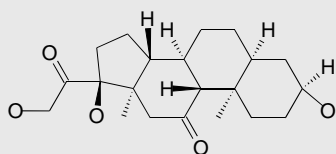
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89



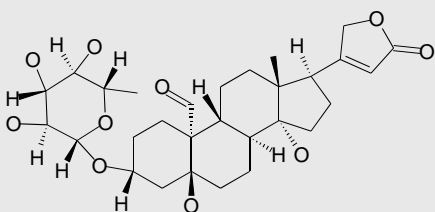
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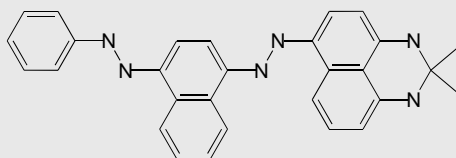
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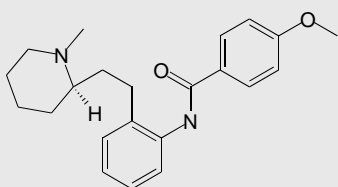
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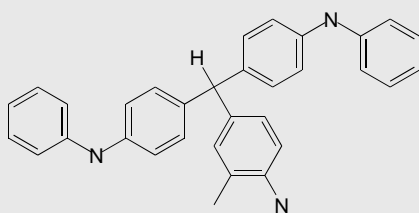
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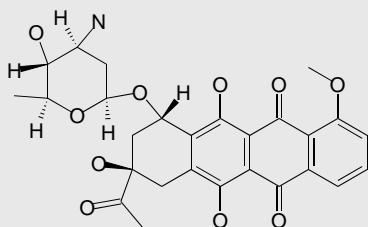
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94



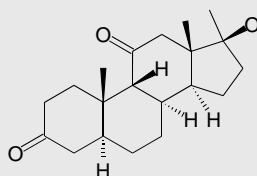
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95



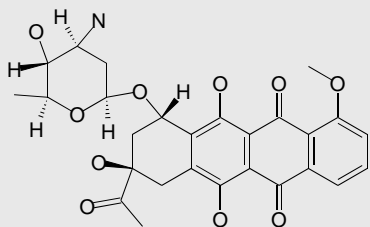
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96



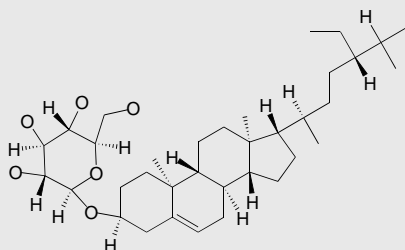
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97



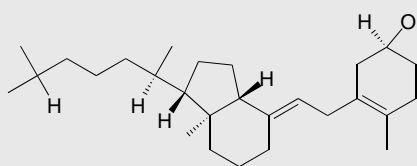
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98



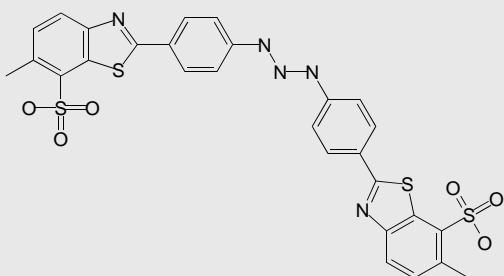
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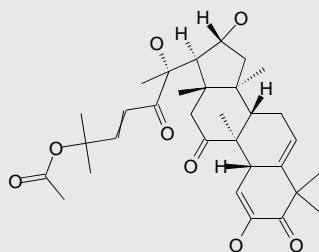
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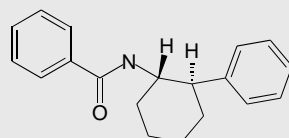
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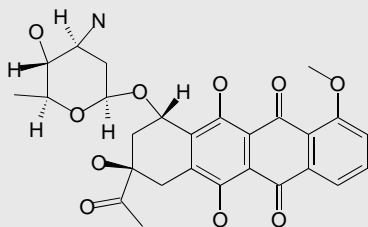
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102



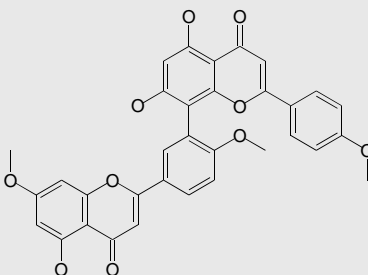
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103



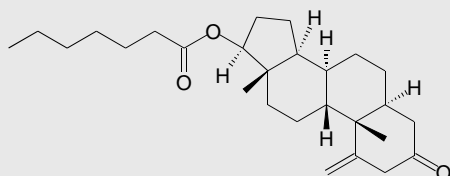
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104



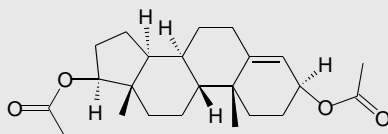
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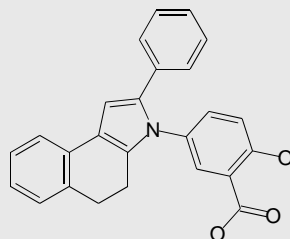
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106



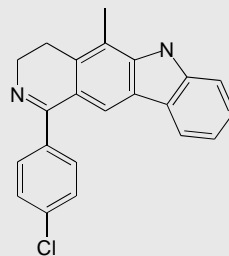
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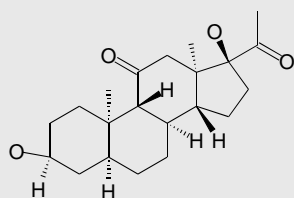
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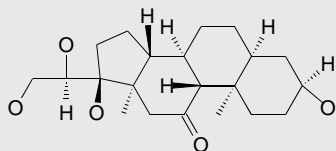
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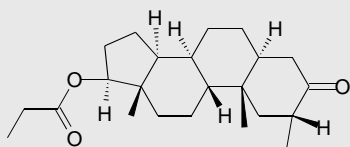
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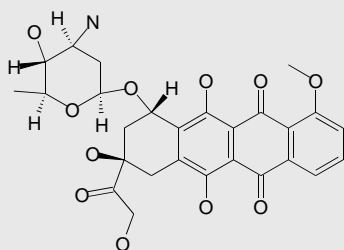
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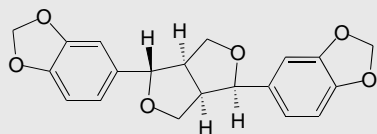
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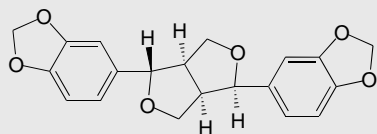
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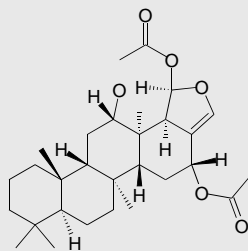
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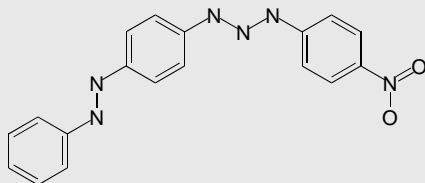
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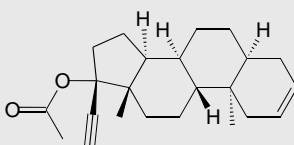
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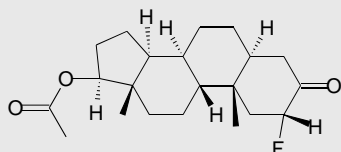
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117



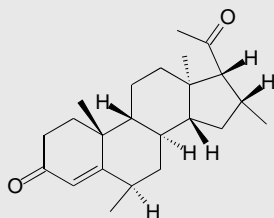
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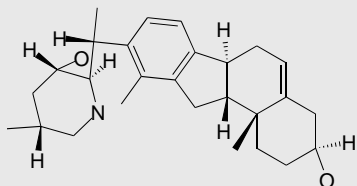
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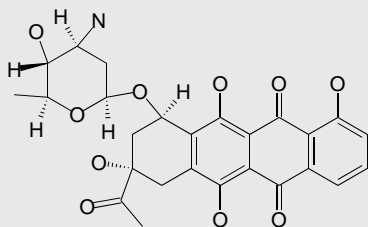
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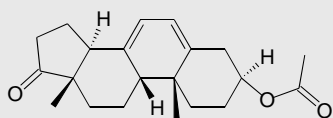
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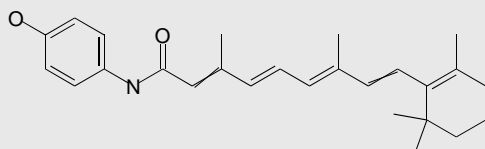
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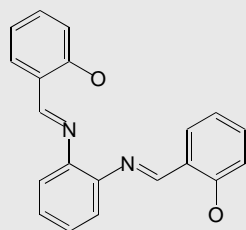
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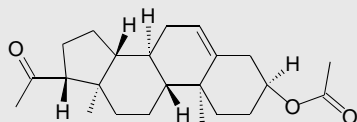
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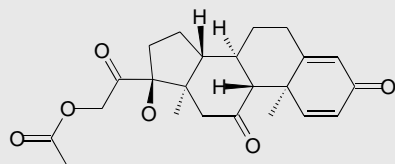
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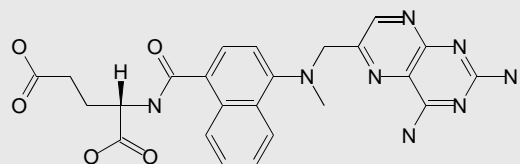
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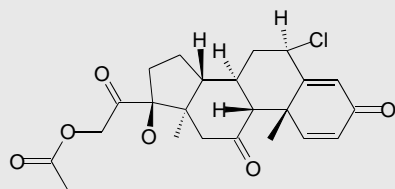
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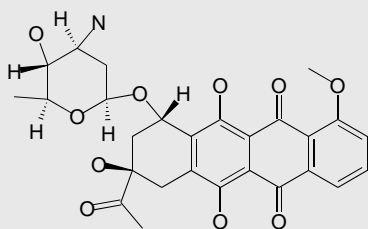
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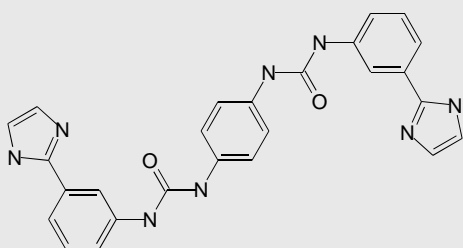
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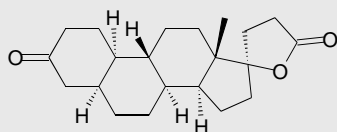
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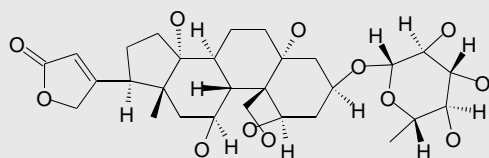
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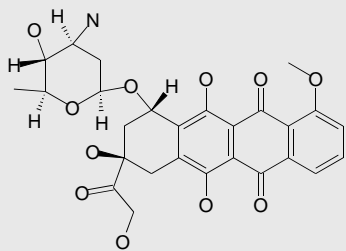
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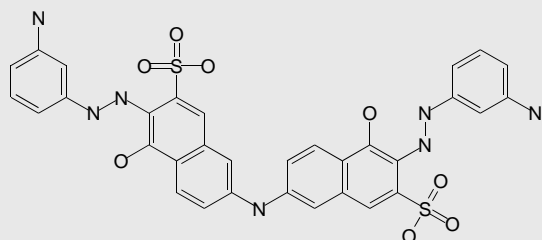
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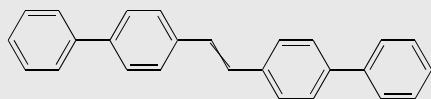
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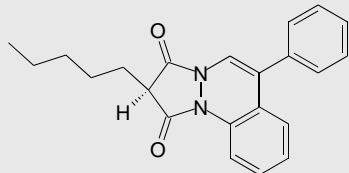
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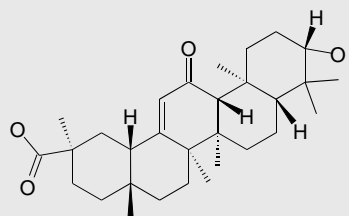
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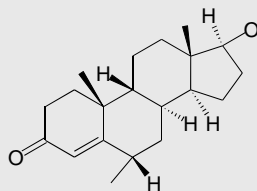
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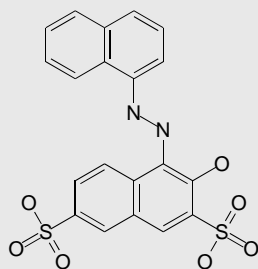
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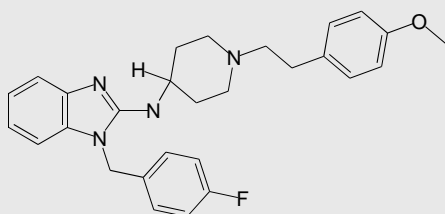
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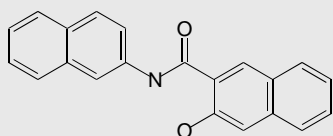
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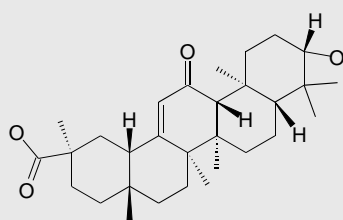
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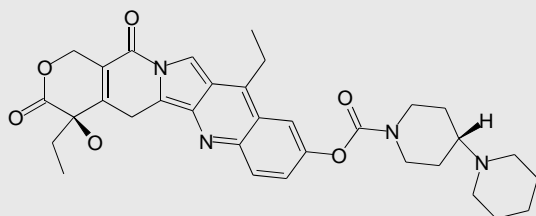
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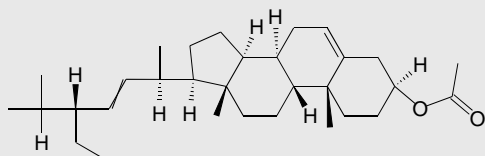
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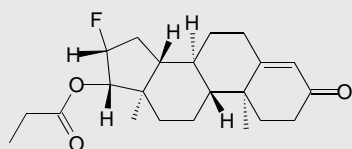
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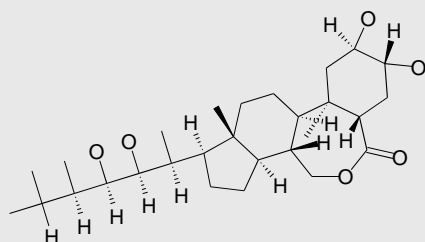
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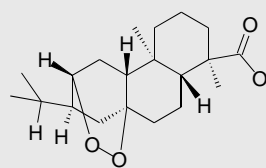
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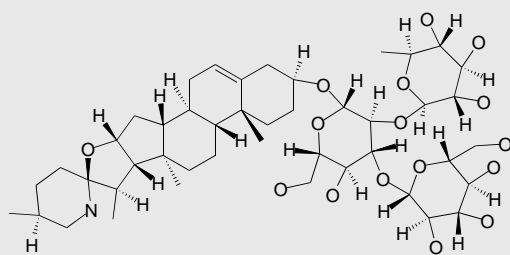
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147



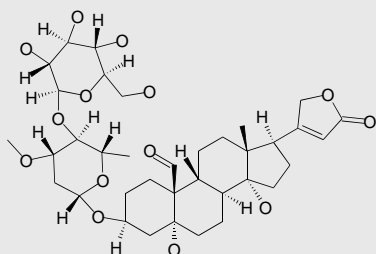
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148



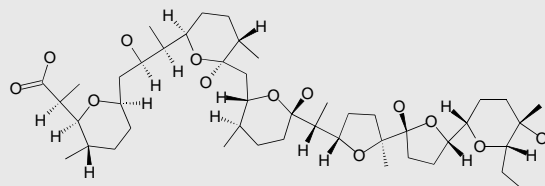
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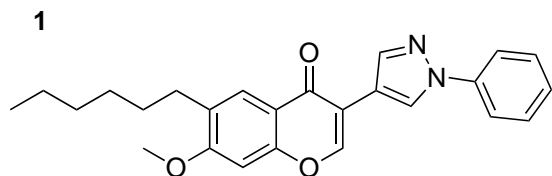


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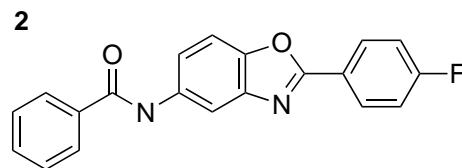
Table 3. Top 62 compounds identified as broad spectrum dengue virus fusion inhibitors.

[illegible]

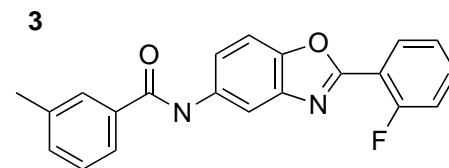
Figure 2. Structures of the 62 purchased compounds with potential broad spectrum fusion inhibitory activity against dengue virus E proteins.



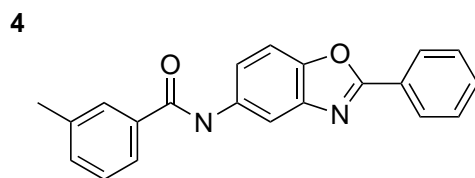
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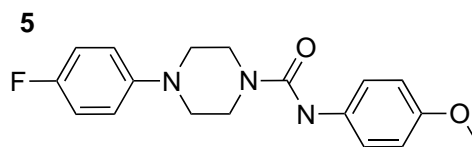
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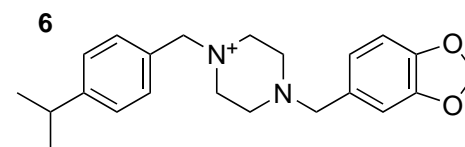
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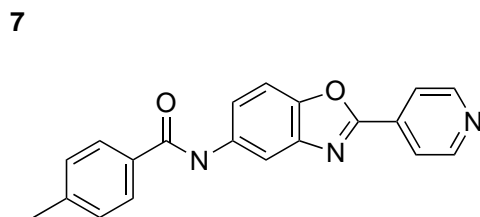
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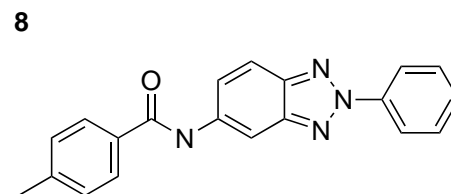
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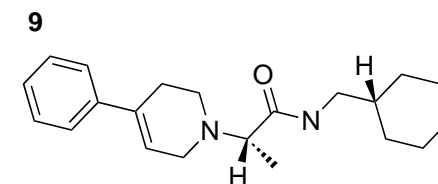
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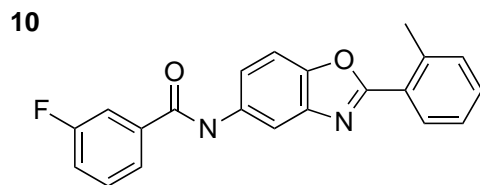
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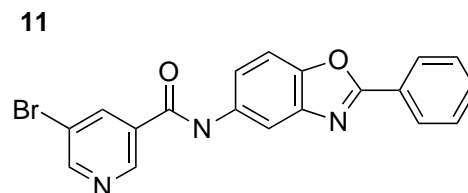
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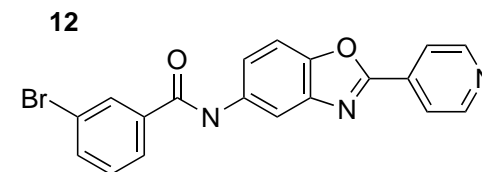
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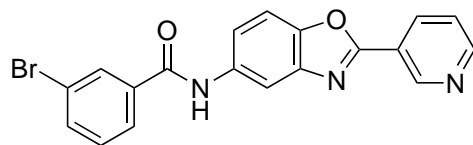
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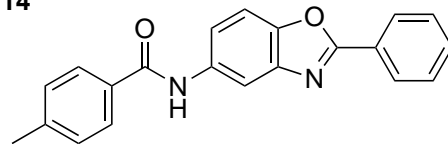
Figure 2. Cont.

13



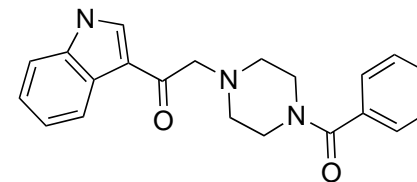
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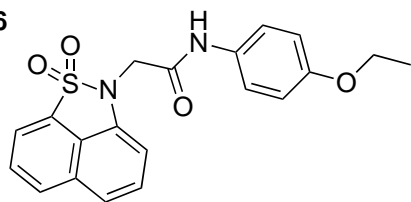
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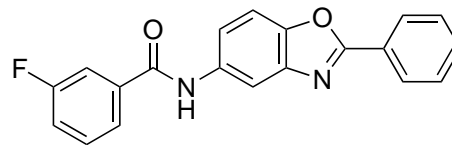
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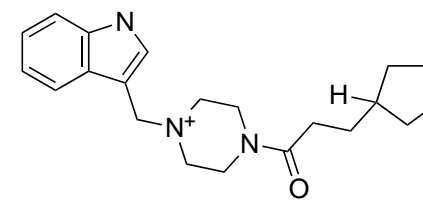
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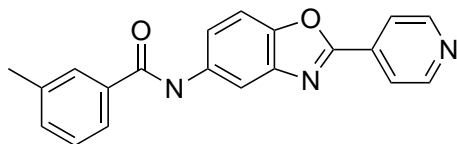
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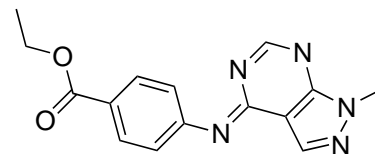
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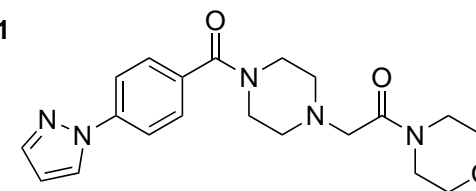
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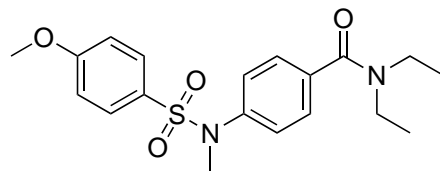
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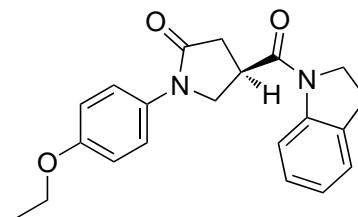
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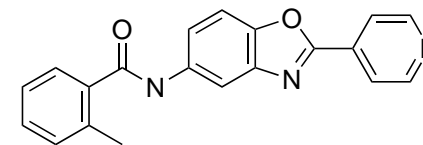
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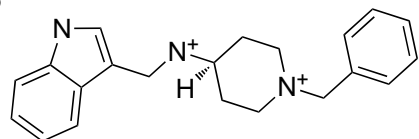
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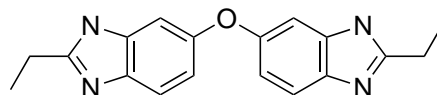
Figure 2. Cont.

25



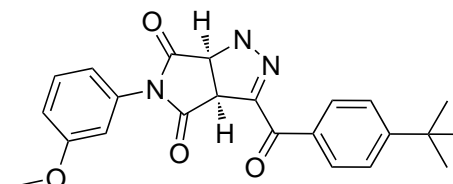
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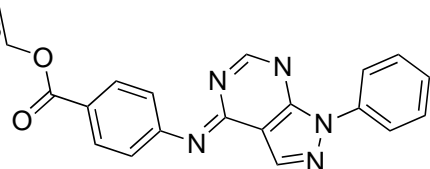
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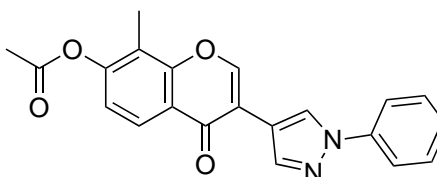
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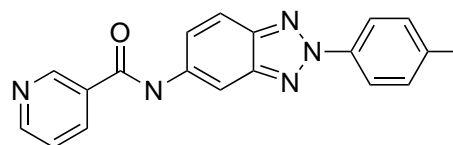
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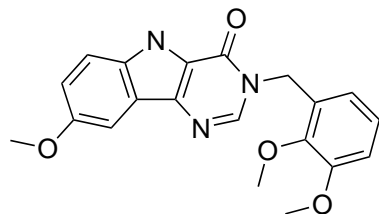
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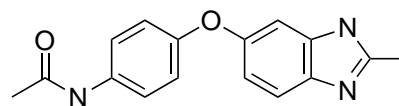
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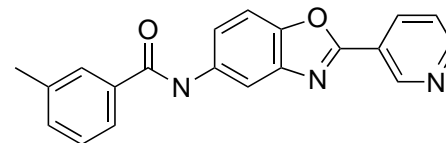
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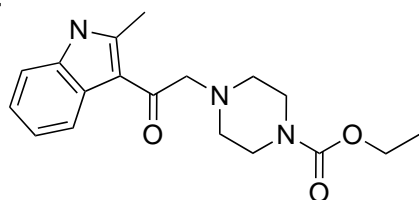
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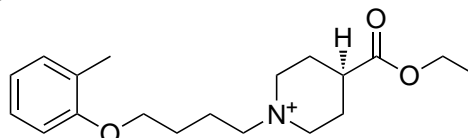
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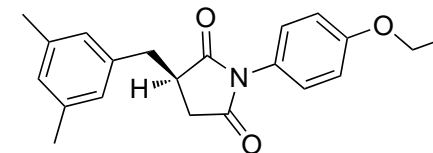
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36



96334

Figure 2. Cont.

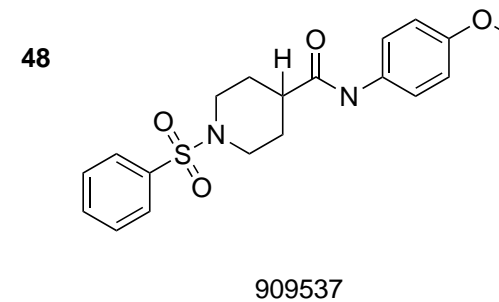
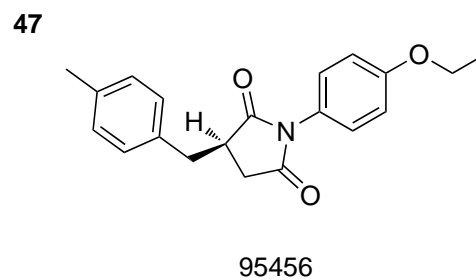
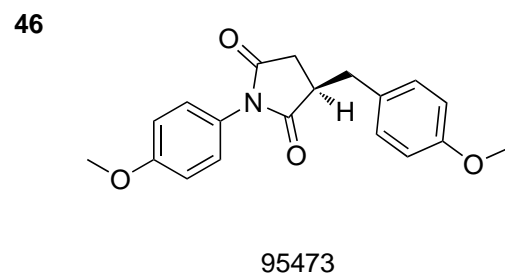
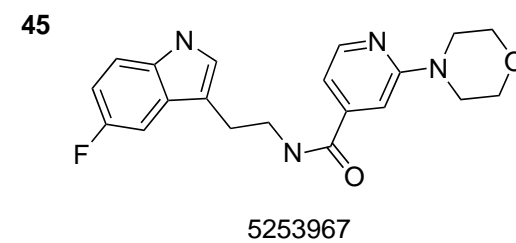
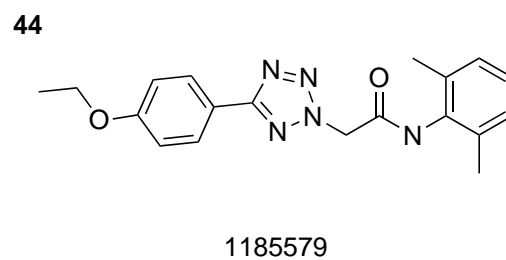
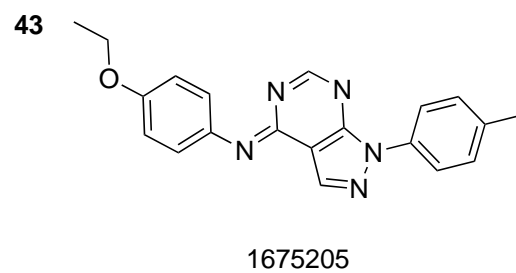
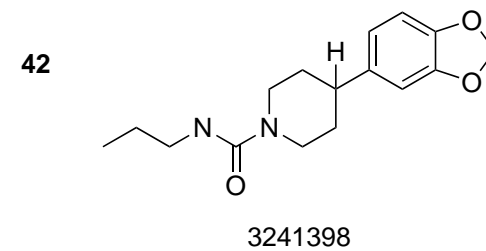
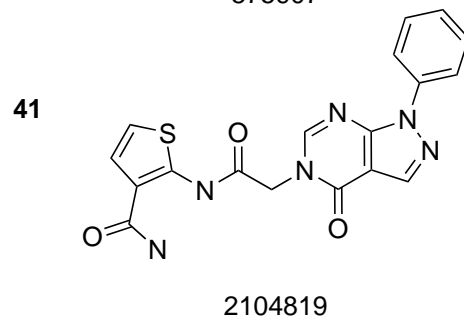
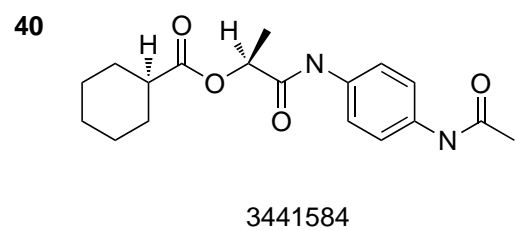
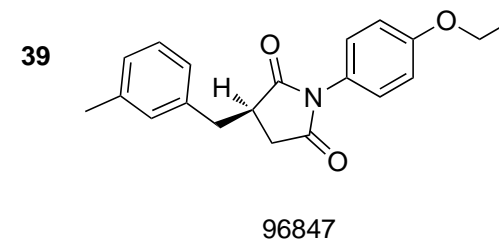
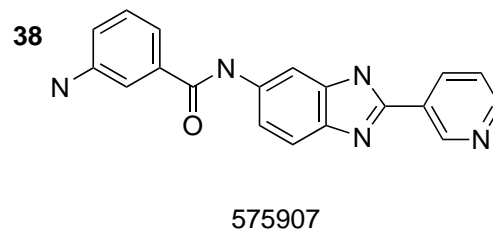
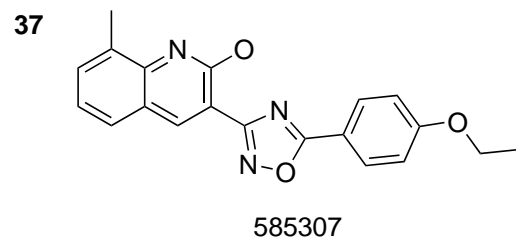
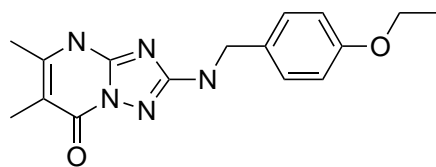


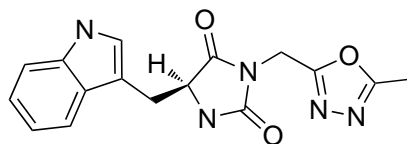
Figure 2. Cont.

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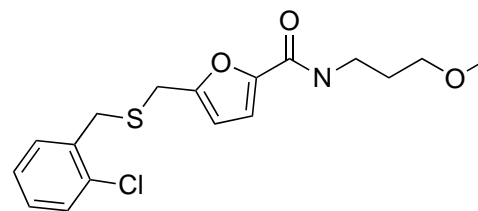
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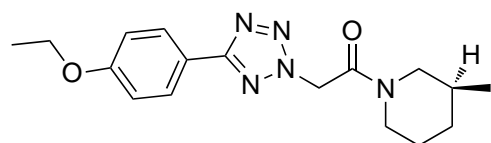
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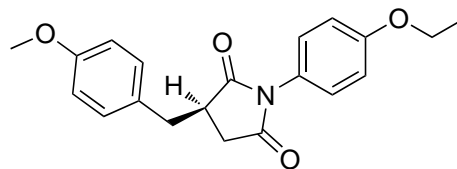
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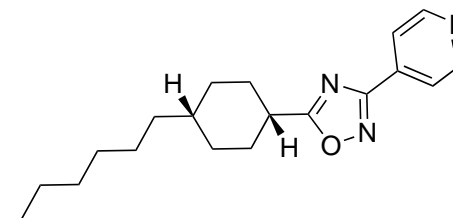
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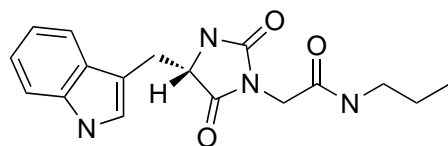
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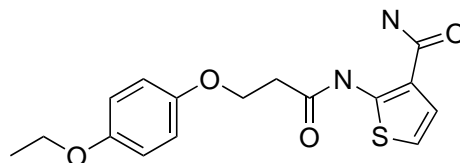
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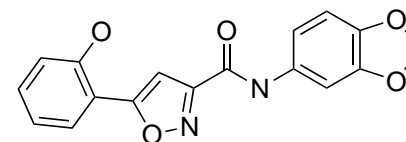
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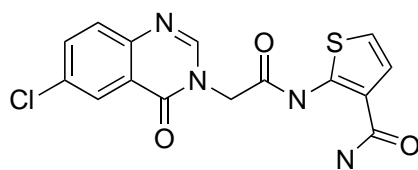
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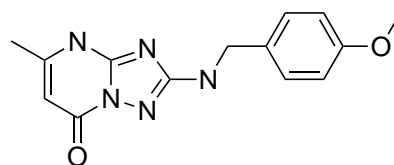
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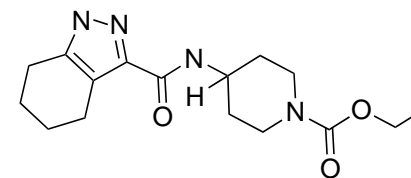
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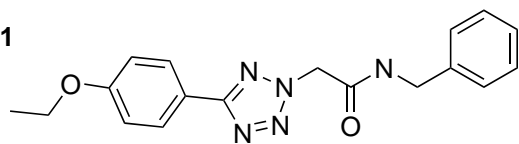
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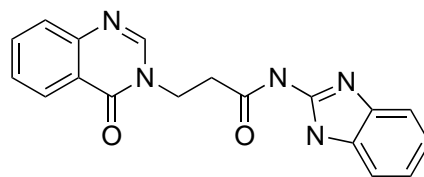
Figure 2. Cont.

61



1185602

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5222381

Oral presentation at the XXXI Reunión Anual de la Sociedad de Bioquímica y Biología Molecular de Chile, 23 to 26 September 2008, Termas de Chillán, Chillán, Chile.

MAPEO COMPARATIVO DE GRUPOS FUNCIONALES EN PROTEÍNAS DE FUSIÓN VIRAL CLASE II

(Comparative functional group mapping of Class II viral fusion proteins)

Lagos, Carlos F.^{1*}; Huenchunir, Patricio²; López-Lastra, Marcelo³ and Pérez-Acle, Tomás^{1,4}

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⁴ Fundación Ciencia para la Vida.

ABSTRACT

Enveloped viruses infect cells via fusion of the virus membrane with a host cell membrane through viral fusion proteins. Upon appropriate triggering, the fusion protein interacts with the target membrane and undergoes a conformational change that drives the membrane fusion reaction. The structures of the ectodomains of fusion proteins from flaviviruses revealed that although these proteins lack detectable amino acid sequence conservation, their secondary and tertiary structures are remarkably similar. In this work we report the construction of consensus functionality maps for functional group binding in class II fusion proteins. The calculations were done for three flavivirus class II envelope glycoproteins: Dengue virus (DENV), Tick-Borne Encephalitis Virus (TBEV) and West Nile Virus (WNV). The results gave consensus maps that indicate functional groups that are insensitive to the specific protein conformation and the existence of alternative binding sites that could be targeted in the rational design of broad-spectrum inhibitors.

Acknowledgments

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Integrated *in silico* tools for drug design

Carlos F. Lagos^{1,2}, C. David Pessoa-Mahana², Patricio Huenchunir², and Tomás Pérez-Acle¹.

¹ Centre for Bioinformatics CBUC - Faculty of Biological Sciences

² Medicinal Chemistry Laboratory MCL - Faculty of Chemistry
P. Universidad Católica de Chile

It is generally recognized that drug discovery and development are very time and resources consuming processes. Current *in silico* strategies for drug design are playing increasingly larger and more important roles in drug discovery and development and are believed to offer means of improved efficiency for both the academic and industrial arena.

In our own academic scenario, we have incorporated several structure and ligand-based techniques into our academic drug discovery programs with promising results. These strategies have been combined to expedite and facilitate hit identification, hit-to-lead selection, optimize the absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion and toxicity profile and avoid safety issues of a series of ligands designed towards various pharmaceutical targets.

Here we describe the use of computational approaches that include ligand-based drug design (pharmacophore), structure-based drug design (drug-target docking), and quantitative structure–activity and quantitative structure–property relationships to discover new drug candidates from different chemical scaffolds.

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Comparative Functional Group Mapping of Dengue Virus Envelope Proteins.

Carlos F. Lagos^{1,*}, Patricio Huenchunir², Marcelo López-Lastra³ and Tomás Pérez-Acle^{1,4}

¹Centre for Bioinformatics CBUC, Faculty of Biological Sciences; ²Medicinal Chemistry Laboratory MCL, Faculty of Chemistry; ³Molecular Virology Laboratory MVL, Faculty of Medicine; Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. ⁴Fundación Ciencia para la Vida.

E-mail: carlos@cbuc.cl

ABSTRACT

Enveloped viruses infect cells via fusion of the virus membrane with a host cell membrane through viral fusion proteins. Upon appropriate triggering, the fusion protein interacts with the target membrane and undergoes a conformational change that drives the membrane fusion reaction. The structures of the ectodomains of fusion proteins from flaviviruses revealed that although these proteins lack detectable amino acid sequence conservation, their secondary and tertiary structures are remarkably similar. In this work we report the construction of consensus functionality maps for functional group binding in class II fusion proteins. The calculations were done for the class II envelope glycoproteins of Dengue virus (DENV) serotypes 1-4. The results gave consensus maps that indicate functional groups that are insensitive to the specific protein conformation and the existence of alternative binding sites that could be targeted in the rational design of broad-spectrum inhibitors.

Acknowledgments

CFL is a fellow of the Fundación Ciencia para la Vida (PFB-16). Funding from grant W81XWH-08-1-0285 USAMRMC is also acknowledged.